
SIX LETTERS

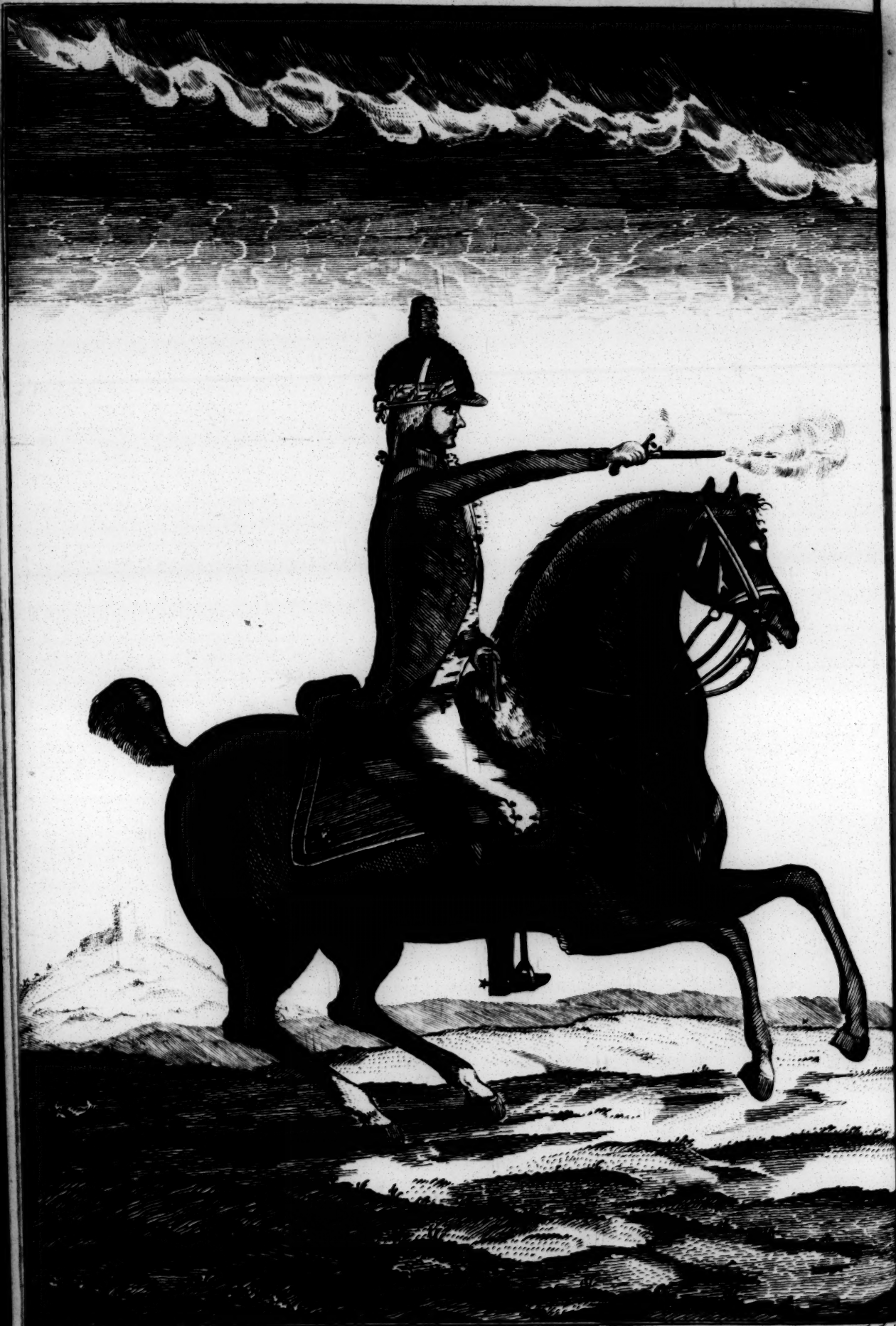
ON THE SUBJECT OF THE

ARMED YEOMANRY,

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21 00 59



R.P. Eliot Esq. Del.

J. Taylor

Staffordshire Volunteer
CAVALRY.

SIX LETTERS
ON THE SUBJECT OF THE
ARMED YEOMANRY,

ADDRESSED TO THE
Rt. Hon. Earl Gower Sutherland,
COLONEL OF THE STAFFORDSHIRE
VOLUNTEER CAVALRY.

By Francis Percival Eliot,

MAJOR IN THE ABOVE CORPS.

While Myriads are in the Field for the Destruction of all Property,
Property must be Armed, or it cannot be safe.

ARTHUR YOUNG.

LONDON:

PRINTED FOR THE AUTHOR,
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NEAR WHITEHALL.

1797.



FIELD MARSHAL

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS

THE DUKE OF YORK,

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SIR,

THE permission which your ROYAL HIGHNESS has so graciously condescended to allow me of introducing my little work to the public under the sanction of a name so well known in the military world, will I trust justify me in asserting, that however imperfectly it may have been treated in my hands, the subject has in itself at least been judged by your ROYAL HIGHNESS to be of some importance.

And

And indeed, SIR, in these distracted times, when the very foundations of civilized society seem to be sapped, and every bond by which man has hitherto been held to man, is stretched to its utmost limits of cohesion, where can the friends of loyalty and order look with so much confidence for a rallying point, as to the ARMED YEOMANRY of their respective counties; to those men with whom they live in the reciprocal interchange of friendly offices; with whom they transact their business; and in whose company they spend their moments of relaxation and enjoyment; to their friends and to their neighbours. But in order to inspire that confidence, it is necessary, that the men to whom they are to fly in the hour of action, should have previously shewn themselves equal to the task of exhibiting that example of discipline, which in the very act of enrolling they have virtually promised to those new associates whose professional avocations would not suffer them to join the standard till obliged by the more immediate pressure of imminent danger.

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It

It would be impertinent in me, SIR, to mention to so perfect a judge of every branch of military business as your ROYAL HIGHNESS, how soon a few well disciplined men mixed amongst raw troops will bring them forward to their own degree of knowledge; but it is certain that they who attempt to teach, must first themselves be taught; and if in endeavouring to point out to my brother officers the movements most essential for a volunteer corps, as well as the simplest methods of executing them according to the established regulations, my humble exertions have met with your ROYAL HIGHNESS's approbation, it is an honour by which I feel those exertions to be infinitely overpaid.

As no man can be more dutifully or zealously attached to his SOVEREIGN; or a greater enemy to every degree of innovation (however speciously masked under the name of reform) in our present happy form of government, than myself, so I can most truly assure your ROYAL HIGHNESS that no man can be more deeply impressed with a grateful sense of the sanction conferred on this
little

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little compilation, than the one who has the honour to remain,

With the most profound respect,

YOUR ROYAL HIGHNESS'S

Most faithful,

And most obedient servant,

Elmhurst,
Feb. 13th, 1797,

F. P. ELIOT.

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P R E F A C E.

BEFORE the following sheets are committed to the inspection of my brethren in arms, the Volunteers of Great Britain and Ireland, I must apologize for the uncouth and disjointed form in which they make their appearance. The distance of the dates, and the difference of the subjects of the several letters, will evidently shew that they were never intended for one united and regular publication; as in that case the political would have been separated from the military part of the matter; and the whole more methodically arranged and divided;—but as it is, I can truly say, that “I sat down to write what I might think, not to think what I should write.”

My intention in drawing up the first letter was merely to sketch a hasty outline of the things most necessary to be taught; reserving for the instructions (a few impressions only of which were printed off for the use of the regiment) the more minute directions for performing them, first in detached parts, as a drill system; and afterwards together on the regular field days.—In the second, I endeavoured to impress the yeomanry, with a proper sense of the necessity for standing forward in the service of their country. Soon after which, being honoured with a request from several other counties for

copies of the instructions, I thought it expedient to print them in the form of a third letter.—And here my little labours, my *opuscula* rested, till the proved and acknowledged utility of the yeomanry corps, in nipping in the bud the too evident propensity to riot and insurrection, which appeared ready to burst forth in the lower classes at the time of the temporary dearness of provisions, prompted me to assert in a fourth letter, that strong claim to the gratitude of their fellow-subjects, to which the volunteers had so fairly entitled themselves; the same conviction of their utility also suggesting the idea of endeavouring to render their establishment a permanent one, at as little expence as possible to government, when the present subscriptions may be exhausted; a plan for which I have also presumed to trace in the same letter.—The publication of Major (now Lieutenant) General Dundas's *Instructions and Regulations*, as ordered by his Majesty's command to be observed by the cavalry corps in general, gave rise to the fifth letter, containing such explanatory remarks on the *Horse Evolutions* (properly so called) as are necessary to point out the variations between the present and former modes of performing them; and which are in fact little more than a literal transcript of the first thirteen sections of his truly scientific and valuable work; here and there indeed interspersed with such occasional memorandums as might be requisite to illustrate the application of them to the service of the yeomanry.—I am happy to seize this opportunity of acknowledging my debt to General Dundas; a debt which I trust I have never attempted to conceal; it having been my wish throughout to appear in the humble, but honest character

character of a borrower, never in that of a licentious and unprincipled *marauder*.—If there is any little merit therefore attaching to the execution of this letter, it can only be that of having abridged with some degree of judgment ; it has none, the smallest, claim to the originality of genius or of science.—The same may be said of the sixth letter, which contains a selection of manœuvres for the use of volunteer cavalry, literally also extracted from the same work.

It may be urged that I have over-burthened my brother yeoman with tactics ; and the *ultra legem tendere opus* will be brought in evidence against my prolixity ; but it must be recollected that I do not by any means insist on the absolute and immediate knowledge of all the contents of this book at once, they are merely meant as a set of progressive lessons, of which no one part is to be attempted till the preceding one is perfectly acquired and fixed in the memory. A corps of yeomanry may be of great use in their own county, and against an irregular mob, without having even looked at the last letter ; but the present aspect of the times, and the probable duration of the war, will not allow us to content ourselves with a mediocrity of discipline.—We must be soldiers or nothing.

No man can be more perfectly disposed to condemn the pompous gasconades of the enemy than myself, if such contempt were within the bounds of sober judgement ; but before we despise, we must be perfectly sure of the ability to repel our adversaries ; and this can only be
after-

ascertained by the most serious attention to discipline.—poets may be *born*, but soldiers must be *made* so.

I believe it certainly was not expected at the first raising of the volunteer corps, that their establishment would have had sufficient duration to allow the attainment of any great degree of tactical knowledge—every thing therefore which was at first intended for their use, was calculated to take up as little time and to give as little trouble as possible; the continuance of the war has given room for an improved degree of discipline; and at present there is every prospect of still further latitude for the same purpose.

I cannot therefore but strongly recommend to my brother volunteers (and if I do it with too much strength or warmth of words, I will trust to their approbation of the motive, as an excuse for the language) to appear constantly in the field on the days of exercise, unless absolutely prevented by illness or unavoidable business; and whilst there, to shew the same order, silence, and activity, and in short, to pay the same attention in every respect to duty, as regular soldiers; I would wish them to perform every thing as well as if they really were so; it does not by any means follow that they must therefore be exercised as often, or perform as great a variety of manœuvres;—it is the *quo modo*; and not the *quantum*, on which I wish to insist.

But the whole of this must depend entirely on the example of the officers, who may rest assured that nothing
is

is simpler in theory, or easier in practice, than securing the esteem and attachment of the gentlemen whom they have the honour to command, at the same time that they inspire them with that confidence in their military knowledge, which every man ought to feel for the person who is to lead him into action.—Perfect military observation of every, the smallest, departure from regularity whilst under arms, expressed with the most gentlemanly attention to the respectability of the persons addressed, will do wonders; it will add the vigour of discipline to native courage; and will enable the volunteers of this country to emulate, and even surpass the example so lately shewn them by their gallant brethren in Ireland.

If then, when PEACE shall once more wave her olive o'er the contending nations; and by our exertions the horrors of

“ TUMULT and CONFUSION all embroiled;

“ And DISCORD with a thousand various mouths,”

shall have been banished to less happy climates, I can with any degree of confidence presume to think that my humble endeavours to perfect the discipline of the volunteer army have contributed to add one little leaf to the laurelled wreath of either island; shall I not, when recollecting that * *I also have been a volunteer*, shall I not enjoy the honest pride of a soldier, in being able to say with conscious exultation, “ MEMORY SET DOWN THAT.”

* *Ed Io anche son pittore.*

EXPLANATION OF THE PLATES.

Plate I. { Figure 1. Troop at close order.
Figure 2. Ditto at parade order.

Plate II. { Figure 3. Squadron of two troops at close order.
Figure 4. Ditto in column of Subdivisions to the right flank.

Plate III. Figure 5. Squadron at parade order.

Plate IV. { Figure 6. Squadron in column of divisions to the right.
Figure 7. Ditto, taking ground to the reverse flank of the column by ranks by threes.

Plate V. { Figure 8. Squadron wheeling back into column of half squadrons to the left---the left or leading half squadron having completed the wheel, and fronted its threes---whilst the right or rear half squadron is shewn in the operation of wheeling with the threes reversed.

Plate VI. { Figure 9. Squadron taking ground by ranks by threes to the left.
Figure 10. Squadron filing from its centre to the right.

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LETTER I.
ON THE
DISCIPLINE
OF THE
VOLUNTEER CAVALRY.

*Ære caput fulgens, cristæque hirsutus equinæ,
Sic cursum in medios rapidus dedit.* VIRGIL.

The brazen helm with nodding horse-hair crown'd,
Refulgent shines the warrior's temples round;
Thus arm'd, and thus adorn'd, with rapid force,
Thro' the thick throng he drives the well-train'd horse.

My Lord,

THE novelty of a corps composed entirely of gentlemen and yeomen, exhibiting what may be termed a kind of non-descript species of soldiery, must necessarily awaken the curiosity of the county, as to the means to be adopted in order to bring into a state of discipline a body of men, who feeling themselves independent as individuals, have nevertheless voluntarily stepped forth in defence of a constitution, which the experience of ages has proved perfectly competent to the preservation of that independence, which it is their pride and happiness to enjoy.

Anxiously zealous for the service in which we are embarked, I have made every possible enquiry as to the modes of discipline made use of in other counties; and from what I can learn, they are so infinitely vari-

B

ous,

ous, as to allow full latitude for the adoption of such means, as may appear, to your Lordship, best calculated to bring the *Staffordshire Cavalry* to a speedy knowledge of every thing useful, without burthening them with any thing for the purpose of mere parade: for however highly disciplined you would wish to see your regiment, (and I doubt not but it is your Lordship's earnest desire, they should set as fair an example to the provincial corps of Cavalry, as the Militia of the county have already done to those of Infantry) it must ever be kept in mind, that the purposes for which the Volunteer Cavalry are enroll'd, do not require that variety of movements, or that refined degree of horsemanship, so necessary for the regular regiments of light dragoons; who are often (particularly of late years since so many of the heavy cavalry have been reformed) obliged to act in line with other corps; and of course, necessitated to practise many more complicated manœuvres than what we, from the nature of the service for which we are principally intended, are at all likely to make use of. To quell a sudden and unpremeditated riot; or by the known loyalty and steady appearance of the troops on their field days, to keep in awe the discontented spirits of the kingdom, are, I trust, all the duties that will ever be required at our hands: for God forbid, that the natural bulwarks of the empire, its gallant and victorious fleets, should ever be so baffled, by wind or weather (the only enemies a British seaman finds invincible) as to permit a foreign invader to get footing on this island.

You

You will also, my Lord, probably agree with me, that though the gentlemen of whom the corps is composed, as well private volunteers, as officers, enrol themselves with that determined zeal and high spirit of emulation, which will enable them to excel in every thing they undertake, it will for that very reason, as well as on account of the shortness of time allowed for practice, (for I apprehend that two mornings in a week, and between two and three hours at a time, will be as much as can be spared from their families and professions) be highly necessary not to attempt to teach them more than they can learn in that time; and by all means to simplify, as much as possible, the little they are then taught.

To place them well on their horses, to make them mount and dismount with speed and regularity; to passage to the right and left; to rein back; and above all to have their horses so well on their haunches, and so light in hand, as to ensure the perfect command of them in all movements; these are the first and principal lessons to be taught.—To learn to tell themselves off by half-ranks, by quarter-ranks, by threes, and by files; and to advance or retreat from right, left, or center of squadrons, by any of the above numbers; and to double up, and form again; and to be steady in keeping their exact distances and dressings in all their wheelings, will be the next step in our progress towards a state of discipline.—Our third and last advance must be, to charge in line; to skirmish and rally by sound of trumpet (or more properly by bugle horn).—These,

my Lord, if well executed, will probably be sufficient for gentlemen who are not to make the science of tactics the business of their lives, and will yet enable them to act with vigor and effect on any sudden emergency.

I flatter myself I need hardly mention to my brother officers, how more than commonly necessary, the peculiar constitution of the corps in which we have the honor to command must render it, to adopt the gentlest and most persuasive methods of engaging the attention and exertions of their troops; however we may in our own minds feel the necessity of the *FORTITER IN RE*, never let us for a moment forget that it is the *SUAVITER IN MODO* alone by which it can be attained. Those gentlemen are widely mistaken who think that severity (even with common soldiers) is at all conducive to discipline; the cane of a Prussian corporal may drub a man into a mechanical obedience of orders; it may make him handle his arms with precision, and load and fire with rapidity: in short, it may make him a perfect parade-man, but never will it inspire him with that enthusiastic ardor, which attaching the British soldier to his officer, renders him invincible in all climates, and in every quarter of the globe; that high and gallant spirit which warm'd his breast amidst the snows of Canada with Wolfe; and braced his nerves against the scorching suns of India under Cornwallis. To persuade even a soldier who is paid for fighting, that it is his interest to excel; and by piquing his pride, engage him through emulation to surpass his comrades, is no very difficult task—*EXPERTO CREDE*—it is the only subject
on

on which I wish to be an egotist; and it is with infinite pleasure I can look back and boast, that for several years during which I served (first as a lieutenant, and afterwards as captain) in one company, no instance occurred of a soldier belonging to that company being either struck or punished in any way whatever—and never, to the last hour of my life, shall I cease to remember the satisfaction I experienced, when on my giving up the light infantry, the whole body to a man requested leave to resign the honorable distinction of a flank company, and to go into the battalion with me.—If these things have been done with common soldiers; with men who at the time of enlisting have no other object in view, but the easiest means of procuring a maintenance, how much more ought we not to expect from gentlemen, who with the most disinterested principles enrol themselves for the sole purpose of serving their country, and of enforcing a due obedience to the established laws—gentlemen whom we may fairly suppose to be as zealous as ourselves, and who will therefore cheerfully coincide in every proper measure,

Having mentioned the things which strike me as expedient to be taught, it may not be amiss to say something on the easiest and least complicated mode of teaching them.—And first, in regard to the business of the riding school, though my own mind has long been made up, as to the degree of horsemanship necessary for the volunteer cavalry, yet wishing to have my opinion corrected by those whom I esteemed much better judges of the business, I have consulted every officer of

cavalry whom I have had the pleasure of meeting since the establishment of our corps has been in agitation, and here, as on every other subject, the variety of opinions was endless----some advise to have nothing to do with the riding-school, but to let the volunteers preserve the same rough, but probably safe seat they now use in common; from an idea, that when you have taken that from them, you will not have sufficient time or practice to give them a better; and that even if you could, it would be lost on the other five days of the week, on which they lay aside the military habit: there is certainly some degree of force in these observations; though my own opinion goes strongly on the other side of the question—others insist, peremptorily, on the necessity of making them complete horsemen (that is to say as much so as dragoons in general are); and that, without that knowledge, they will be confused and irregular in all their movements; and in short, any thing but soldiers: and indeed I am so far of this opinion, that I think a man on horseback, without the perfect command of the animal under him, is in a much less safe situation than if on foot, and trusting to his own exertions alone. However, a medium between the two extremes is probably the path we ought to pursue. A covered riding school, I apprehend, we have nothing to do with; it may be sufficient to practise in the field, the lessons before mentioned; but, as the troops will be trained in separate districts, it will be highly necessary for the captains to establish some uniform system of proceeding; without which, we cannot hope to appear with any degree of credit as one body, should we be
called

called upon so to do: it is for this reason, therefore, that I have presumed to throw my thoughts into the present form; and with Lt. Col. Monckton's concurrence, to lay them before your Lordship for your approbation; trusting that the following method of teaching will be found as short and simple, as the nature of the service will admit of.

On the first meeting of the troop, after the officers have seen that the uniforms, arms and accoutrements of the private gentlemen, as well as the saddles, bridles, furniture, &c. of their horses, are properly put on; it may be sufficient to practise mounting, dismounting, and linking, in the manner described in the instructions;* taking great care to see that they are firmly, as well as neatly, seated in their saddles; the head and body perfectly upright, the shoulders back, the breast a very little projected, the elbows close, (but not stiffly or awkwardly so) the wrist of the bridle hand a little bent, with the fingers towards the body, the hand about four inches above the pommel, the right hand hanging easily down, the thighs and knees close to the saddle, the flat of the leg parallel with the horse's side, the foot in the same direction, the toe exactly perpendicular under the knee, and the heel depressed about one inch and a half lower than the toe:† this is the seat which exhibits the most

* The instructions, being merely intended for the use of the regiment, will be printed separately. Vide Letter III.

† The proper length of the stirrup is found by letting the leg hang easily down the horse's side, (out of the stirrup) neither contracted nor extended,

most perfect combination of strength and grace ; and with which the rider may fearlessly defy every effort of his horse to displace him. Having now seated your men properly in their saddles, and having taught them to mount and dismount with regularity, it may be right to consider how far your Lordship would wish to perfect their seats by longing without stirrups ; a practice which cannot be too much recommended, and which alone can give that graceful equilibrium, by which the real horseman is to be distinguished from the post-boy, or the jockey. If my proposition should take place,* of allowing a quarter-master to be attached to the field officer's troop in each squadron, to be employed chiefly as riding master to the two troops composing it ; which may easily be done if the field officer and captain appoint distinct days of exercise for their troops ; this at two days per week each, will leave him two clear days for dressing the officers' or private gentlemen's horses, or for such other duty as the commanding officer of the squadron may think fit to employ him in. According to this plan it will be very feasible, and, certainly, very useful, for the riding-master, assisted by the serjeants, to practise the volunteers in longing without stirrups, in crossing over and changing hands, in passing to right and left, in stopping their horses on their haunches,

and taking the leather to such a shortness, that the bottom part of the iron may just touch the bottom of the ancle bone ; a rule which, varying the length of the stirrup with that of the leg, gives every man a seat in proportion to his height.

* Which has been since adopted.

and

and in reining back ; all which, by inculcating the necessary aids of hand and heel, will tend to ensure a perfect obedience from the horse, and of course, an equal degree of safety to the rider.

On the method of performing the above lessons, it will not be necessary for me to enlarge ; as in the first place, it would swell my letter far beyond any moderate bounds ; and secondly, as the riding-master, if properly qualified, will exemplify them much better in practice, than I could possibly do on paper.

To those officers who have not been educated in a riding-school, I beg leave to recommend the late Lord Pembroke's excellent Treatise on *Military Equitation* ; which book, as well as Captain Hinde's *Discipline of the Light Horse*, no officer of Light Cavalry should be without : the former shews all the business of the riding-school, and treatment of horses ; the latter, the whole of the duty, both in field and quarters. Should any gentlemen wish to proceed further in the science of horsemanship, Berenger may be consulted ; but I apprehend that every thing necessary for a soldier, is fully contained in Lord Pembroke's book ; which to perfect clearness adds great brevity ; and by not overloading the memory, enables it to retain the whole of his instructions : Captain Hinde's Book is equally useful, though hardly so luminous in its style or language. I know of no other book to compare with these.*

Supposing

* This was written previously to the publication of Capt. Neville's very ingenious

Supposing then, my Lord, the Volunteers to be perfected in their riding as far as the foregoing lessons by the riding-masters, as well as in the use of the pistol and sabre (the carbine being very wisely rejected) by the serjeants, we are now ready to take the field in troops; where our first care must be to teach them to tell themselves off,* by half-ranks, quarter-ranks, threes, and files, with that certainty and precision, that every man may in an instant know his exact place in every movement; and a very simple method of ensuring that knowledge, is by accustoming the men on whom the exactitude of the movements depends (that is to say the pivots and flankers) to dart forwards the right hand in a line from the shoulder, the moment the word of command is given; between which and the word march, the exercising officer should always allow sufficient time for the men to recollect themselves; this will inform the rest of the division on whom they are to depend whilst moving; and if executed smartly, will by no means take away from the neatness of the movements. I should recommend the above method of practising the tellings off for some time, without executing the movements themselves, till every man is well acquainted with his place; only exchanging the word *March* for *As you were*. When perfect in this, they may be wheeled in squadron (each troop being told off and exercised as

ingenious little treatise on the Discipline of Light Cavalry; of the book published by the present Lord Pembroke and Lt. Col. Crauford for the use of Cavalry; and of M. Gen. Dundas's Instructions and Regulations for the Formation and Movements of Cavalry—all of which may be added to the above.

* For the present method of telling off, vide Letter V.

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such) to *the Right, Right, and Right about*; to *the Left, Left, and Left about*; the same by half ranks, quarter ranks, and threes, first with open ranks wheeling separately, and then closed wheeling together; making them halt after every wheel, as it will be time enough to shew their use in manœuvring, after they are perfect in the wheelings themselves. The wheeling to the right about by threes I beg leave to recommend strongly as the simplest and most effectual mode of changing front if attacked in the rear, or of coming to the front in order to cover a retreat. They may next perfect them in passing and reining back, by practising the opening, closing, and doubling of files; and doubling of ranks and forming again from all the different tellings off; and then proceed to the single and double filings. When advanced thus far, it may be right for the commanding officers to exemplify to their troops the use of all the different manœuvres, in the order they are placed in the instructions, or rather in such order as the nature of the country may render necessary, by taking them to ground intersected by bogs, brooks, woods and lanes; which by obliging them to break their front, and form again when they have passed the obstruction, will instantly shew the necessity of the manœuvre.

We will now suppose the Volunteers not only to be perfect in the use of their arms, but also exact in performing the different evolutions; the troops are therefore ready for regular field days, which may be continued either once or twice per week according to the progress made; and as it will be utterly impossible (on account

count of the troops being formed in separate districts) for them to be inspected, or to act together on any occasion without the previous practising the whole business of a review day, I have here added * what appears to me the proper form of proceeding; beginning with the reception of a general officer from right to left along the front; the marching past him, first in squadron, (that is to say the troop told off as such) which shews the sizing and general appearance of the whole; and afterwards by files to give him an opportunity of inspecting them singly; a practice which should by all means be strictly attended to, as the surest method of inspiring individuals with a spirit of emulation in regard to their appearance as soldiers; which must naturally be the case, where every man is certain of undergoing so severe a scrutiny: when this is finished and the squadron formed on its original ground, we next proceed (the rejection of the carbine having rendered the dismounting and linking, in order to go through the manual exercise and firings on foot, unnecessary; but which must be done in this place, if carbines are made use of;) † to fire with pistols, to front, right, and left; drawing, and returning swords between the firings; and then to go through the few plain and useful evolutions contained in the instructions—finishing with a general salute before they are dismissed—the same form *mutatis mutandis* (with the addition of fetching and lodging the standards) will do for either a squadron of two

* Vide Instructions.

† The manual with pistols is only used now at drill.

troops, or a regiment of fix—as may also be seen in the instructions.

In the foregoing sketch of discipline, I flatter myself, that your Lordship will find every thing which can be of use, and nothing superfluous; with a less degree of military knowledge, we could hardly call ourselves soldiers; and in order to attain a greater we must sacrifice more time than could well be spared from our families and from our occupations. That pursuing the above medium, the *Staffordshire Volunteer Cavalry* may under your Lordship's command be found equal to every duty their country can require of them, is the ardent hope of,

Your very faithful,

And devoted,

Humble servant,

Elmhurst, 29 Sept. 1794.

F. P. E.

LETTER

LETTER II.
ON THE
UTILITY AND EXPEDIENCY
OF THE
Volunteer Establishment.

Statuo esse optime constitutam rempublicam, quæ ex tribus generibus illis, regali, optimo, et populari, modice confusa.

CICERO.

I look on that as the best constituted form of government, which consists of a due mixture of the three estates, the King, the Lords, and the Commons.

My Lord,

HAVING in my former letter proceeded as far in the military part of our duty, as the very narrow limits of my abilities, and the rust of thirteen years absence from the service, would permit, allow me in the present, to wander from the dry didactic path, to say a few words on the utility and political expediency of the Volunteer establishment; a measure, evincing strongly the provident wisdom of the legislature; a measure, by which alone the internal peace of this country can, in the present state of European politics, be for a moment ensured; and which, I trust, will prove the certain and effectual means of driving far, and for ever from us, the hydra of rebellion, with all its train of horrible and sanguinary consequences.

In

In order to prove the expediency of the measure; it will be necessary to enter a little into the nature of those alarms which have given rise to it; and which, however some may have affected to treat as groundless, even in assemblies, which it would be irregular, and amounting to a breach of the known privileges of those assemblies in me to particularize here, have gone forth so apparently well founded from the one to the other extremity of the island, that it has become the serious duty of every honest man, to publish to the world an unequivocal declaration of attachment to his sovereign, as well as to that constitution under which the British empire has arrived at its present unexampled height of prosperity. If any man doubts my assertion, I will desire him to cast an enquiring eye over the surface of the earth, and tell me, in what corner of the globe, if not in Britain, Prosperity erects her throne. He will not surely say that she has introduced the requisition to encrease domestic comfort; or the guillotine to lengthen life in France: shall I then believe that he envies the despotism of Russia, or the ruined finances of the other European Potentates; shall we cross the Atlantic to enjoy the infantine weakness of America, where parties, like children, are beginning to quarrel even in the cradle; or will he, tardily open to conviction, turn to his native country, and behold her rising superior in the scale of nations; enjoying a trade unbounded, and a consequent affluence which mocks at computation; engaged in a just and necessary war, hardly feeling the expence of it; enabled by her immense resources not only to bear her own share of the burthen, but even to assist in
lightening

lightening those of others ; * seeing and acknowledging the general welfare of the whole, let him then view the peace and happiness of individuals ; let him behold the wealthy trader enjoying without controul, the fruits of early industry, and the rewards of application ; the man of landed property receiving the issues of his estate at his own free disposal, and clear from all deductions save only that very small proportion which the state demands under the name of land tax ; which is expended for his defence in common with the rest of the empire ; and which can only be granted by representatives elected by the landed property of the kingdom ; and last, but most in point to our present subject, let him behold the independent, the respectable yeoman, cultivating and improving his paternal fields ; enjoying in the bosom of domestic peace all that can endear, or render life desirable ; and knowing that whilst he conforms to those easy and salutary laws, which were enacted for his own security, it is beyond the power of man to hurt or to annoy him. To men who are so feelingly convinced of their own happiness, when compared with the bulk of mankind, it is not necessary for me, even were I so inclined, to enter into a tedious disquisition on the superiority of the British Constitution ; but I will briefly assert, that it is a form of government which throws as much liberty into the hands of the subject, as is compatible with the nature of a civilized society, where if he has something to give up, he has much more to receive in exchange ; where for the small sacrifice of a very trifling

* How far this assertion was founded on fact, let the late voluntary and spirited subscription to the loan speak for me.—In the language of fact there can be no delusion.

part of his property, to supply the calls of the state; and a very inconsiderable share of time, in the discharge of those offices which fall on all in their turns, he is amply, and beyond all possible invasion secured, and guarded, in the undisturbed possession and expenditure of the bulk of that property, as well as in the unquestioned use and enjoyment of every remaining moment of his time; a state, to sum up all, which as in this country, imposes no restraints, but such as tend to prevent the commission of evil, and under which he enjoys every possible latitude for the promotion of good—a system so beautifully harmonious in all its parts, and in which the social duties, and their relative dependencies, are so closely interwoven each with all, that the very existence of the one must necessarily depend on the welfare of the whole; and where

If not equal all, yet all are free;
Equally free: For orders and degrees
Jar not with Liberty, but well consist.

If these things are so, (and that they are, the declared consent of a very large majority of the inhabitants of the kingdom, expressed in their meetings for the support of government authorizes me to pronounce), I have only to shew in as few words as possible that the constitution is really threatened, not only by the open hostilities of avowed enemies, but also by the more dangerous, because unexpected, attacks of false friends; and here, my Lord, fortunately for me, we are not to trust to any arguments of mine, we are not reduced to rest our confidence on the mere *IPSE DIXIT* of any man; for in proof of my assertion, a body of evidence comes

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forth

forth in such an unquestionable shape, and backed with such incontrovertible authority, that no one who has eyes to see, or ears to hear, can for a moment doubt the existence of a very dangerous and extensive conspiracy against the crown and constitution of the country: we have before us the report of a committee of the Commons of Great Britain in Parliament assembled, which tells us, in the most plain and forcible language, that even in the very heart of the kingdom, in the metropolis of the empire, they have discovered no less than thirty divisions of disaffected subjects, some of which consist of six hundred persons each; corresponding not only with other illegal societies in different parts of the kingdom, but even with the avowed enemies of their country; and finally threatening to subvert the constitution, and reduce us to the level of our unhappy neighbours.* How far in doing this they may have been guilty of overt acts of treason, it is now neither the time nor place, even were I competent, to pronounce; their trials are depending, and the violated laws of their country will deal with them in the measure which they deserve; let me only add that so imminent has the danger appeared to the executive government, that it has thought it necessary for the collective safety, to obtain by a speedy and solemn act of the legislature, a temporary suspension of the grand bulwark of individual freedom.

* It is to be recollected that the first edition of this passage was written during the trials of those men who stand so deeply indebted to the lenient letter of the laws of England, which convicts not without unquestionable proof.

If then, my Lord, this constitution so highly prized, is a treasure worth preserving, even at the hazard of our fortunes, and of our lives; and if we know that that treasure is threatened to be wrested from us, how plain and obvious is the conclusion these premises afford; that it is our immediate interest as well as duty, to step forward with alacrity, in order to afford to government the only thing now wanting for its security, our personal assistance in the internal defence of the country—the mode of doing which is so clearly marked out, and every doubt in regard to the legality or expediency of the measure so effectually removed, by the wisdom of our representatives, who as the constitutional guardians of the public purse, and as such ever tender of private property, have in conjunction with the other branches of the legislature, empowered and encouraged (but by no means obliged) the faithful and well-disposed subject to arm in his own defence, and at his own cost, as loyalty may prompt, or as ability will permit.

And here, my Lord, before I conclude, let me address a few words to those, who are most interested in a proper explanation of the Volunteer Establishment, the Yeomanry of the county, of whom it is to be formed. Before *their* eyes let me bring the striking contrast of their present state, to what it would be under the reign of Jacobinism. In the former, sowing with the certain expectation of reaping what they have sown; and breeding with the surest prospect of selling what they have bred; returning from the daily employment of the field, and sitting down in the bosom of their families,

milies, secure that no one shall enter the door but by their own invitation ; and resting assured, that when the day of payment arrives, they will receive the price of their crop, and of their stock, undiminished and uninfluenced by any thing but the variation of demand in the weekly market ; a variation, which the increased or abated consumption of the articles they have to sell, can alone bias. Let us now regard the other side of the picture, and see what French Liberty as it is called, has done for my brother farmer——when harvest is finished, with the help of half the proper number of horses, (the other half of his team having been taken for the use of the army, without any compensation whatever) he supposes that he shall, at least, have leave to do what he pleases with the crop so miserably harvested : by no means ; it is put in a *state of requisition* ; that is to say, the Convention seizes it for the use of the soldiery, leaving the unfortunate peasant such a part as may be supposed sufficient for the bare maintenance of his family ; and if out of that, by dint of half-starving himself and children, he saves a small quantity to take to market, there is a person ready armed with the authority of the Convention, to fix a *maximum*, or the highest price for which it may be sold, and which he is sure to fix lower than what the ruined farmer can afford to offer it at. You will now think, gentlemen, that as the unfortunate man is robbed of all, the Convention has no farther hold on him : so far from it, he is now in the very situation they wish for—he has nothing to lose but his life, and of that they will also dispose by *requisition* ; and will place him in the front ranks of their army, to be ended
by

by an English cannon; a Prussian sabre; or an Austrian bayonet.* Perhaps, gentlemen, you may think my picture is painted beyond the truth, or that you are out of the reach of its resemblance; believe me seriously, the portrait is a just one: and the danger by no means so distant as you imagine—it is by *your* exertions alone, that it can be banished from this now happy island: and let me beg of you to consider, that when by such exertions the security of the kingdom is established, and peace returns, with how different an aspect will a grateful country behold her guardians and preservers, from that opprobrious and disdainful look which she will cast on the indolent and the coward, who shrunk from danger and left her to protect herself.

That there are persons so woefully ignorant, or so wilfully blind, as to seek an exchange from the ascertained and established blessings of a clearly defined and limited monarchy, for the wild and visionary speculations of republican anarchy, the added experience of every hour but too clearly proves; but who shall assert that they will not hide their guilty heads, and sink into their original obscurity, when they see the respectable and independent Yeomanry of the kingdom stepping forth with undaunted courage, in defence of their beloved sovereign, and of that constitution, which the test of time has proved to be without an equal; and which

* For a more enlarged view, both of the danger and of the misery above mentioned, look into Mr. Young's most admirable and elegant essay, in No. 129, of the Annals of Agriculture; and to whose superior and now acknowledged abilities, we owe the idea of an armed Yeomanry.

has secured to their ancestors and to themselves every enjoyment a rational and moderate mind can wish for.

Conscious of these blessings the British Yeoman arms to defend and to ensure the continuance of them, nor will he resign them but with his life; unlike the mercenary hireling, obeying neither the calls of avarice, nor the mandates of ambition, but literally fighting * PRO ARIS ET FOCIS.

I have the honour to be,
With perfect respect and regard,
Your Lordship's

Most obedient and very

Faithful servant,

Elmhurst, Sept. 30, 1794.

F. P. ELIOT.

* PRO ARIS ET FOCIS—FOR OUR ALTARS and for our HEARTHS:
[that is, For our CHURCHES and HOUSES] the motto on the Staffordshire Standards.

LETTER

LETTER III.
FIELD INSTRUCTIONS
FOR THE
STAFFORDSHIRE VOLUNTEER
LIGHT CAVALRY.

*Ne l'ffalir son pronti, & nel ritrarsi;
E combatton fuggendo, erranti, e sparsi.* TASSO.
Prepar'd to charge, or ready to retreat,
In the light skirmish still the foe they meet.

My Lord,

MY first letter treating of the general system of discipline to be adopted by the Volunteer Cavalry, and having in my second endeavoured to point out to the Yeomanry of the county the necessity of arming in defence of their King and Country, as well as for the immediate protection of their own property, it now only remains for me in the third, to return to the dry and unentertaining task of laying down, in obedience to your Lordship's wishes, the necessary rules for inculcating an uniform method of performing the manœuvres mentioned in the first—the best form of doing which appears to me that of a field day for a single troop told off and exercised as a squadron; and as the number of motions to each word of command, and the

mode of executing such motions according to the present manner of doing them in the regular regiments of Light Cavalry (particularly the 15th or King's Light Dragoons, so well known by the popular title of *Eliot's Light Horse*) will be seen in the said form, the several detached parts of it practised and repeated in succession, as the troops proceed towards a state of discipline, will also serve as a drill system till they are sufficiently perfect to enable them to go once through the whole in the regular order of a field day—I shall now therefore, my Lord, only make a few general observations, and proceed immediately to the instructions. 1st. The officers are particularly requested to be attentive in using an uniform method of giving the words of command, which should be done in a loud, clear and distinct tone of voice; the first part, which always serves as a caution for the troops to prepare for the movement, rather slow, and so perfectly distinct that every syllable may be understood; and the last equally loud, but as sharp and quick as possible, that the whole body may be in motion in an instant. 2d. The pauses between the first and last part must be varied according as the movement is to be performed, whether on the march, or from a halt—for instance; if they are wheeled by quarter-ranks to the right when marching, the word will be given as follows—viz. “*By quarter-ranks, to the right, wheel,*” but if halted it will be, “*By quarter-ranks to the right wheel, march.**” This I have endeavoured to point out
by

* For the variations now made in giving the words of command, vide Letter V. with which the whole and every part of these instructions must be carefully

by marking the pause in the word of command throughout. 3d. The same variation of pause will also inform the troops when marching by divisions (of any size less than a troop) whether they are to wheel singly, or to make a general wheel to form the squadron (or line if more than one squadron is in the field); thus supposing the troop to have taken ground to the right by quarter-ranks—on the word “*To the left*”——they will know that there is only the word “*wheel*” to come, which informs them that it is for the leading division only, the others wheeling separately by word from their own officer or non-commissioned officer; but if they hear “*To the left wheel,*” with the pause at the end, they will then understand that it is to be followed by the words “*And form squadron.*” The pause, which should here be a long one after the word *wheel*, giving them time to gain the exact interval necessary for forming without confusion. The officer being particularly attentive to give the word to form, immediately as soon as those intervals are determined, but no sooner; an attention which will prevent all that irregular dressing and closing after they are formed, so displeasing to a military eye.

carefully compared, and wherever they appear to clash, it is to be remarked that the former (Letter V.) is to be preferred and observed.

FIELD

FIELD DAY FOR A TROOP,

Told off and Exercised as a Squadron.

THE troop being assembled in the field, and consisting of 1 Captain, 1 Lieutenant, 1 Cornet, 1 Quarter-Master, 3 Serjeants, 1 Trumpeter, and 48 Volunteers, should be drawn up as follows.* The Captain in front and facing his troop, at such a distance as may enable him to view the whole clearly, and at the same time so near as to be heard distinctly when giving the word. The Lieutenant a horse's length in front of the second file from the right, and facing the same way as the troop. The Cornet in a line with him, and in front of the second file from the left. The Quarter-master four horses lengths in the rear of the centre. Serjeants on the right, left and centre of the front rank. Trumpeter on the right of the whole in the front rank. Troop in two ranks of 24 files, ranks at open order. The commanding officer having seen that the whole are properly posted and dressed, proceeds to give the word.

WORDS OF
COMMAND.

*Rear rank close
to the croup—
March*.*

EXPLANATIONS.

On the word *march* the rear rank move up as close as possible to the front; the officers face to the right and left about inwards.

* Vide Letter V.

**Tell off—the*
Squadron.

The right hand man of the front rank tells his number by saying *one*, the next *two*, the third *three*, and so on all the way to the left, which tells the number of files in the whole squadron; after this the right hand man says *Right*, the second *Left*, the third *Right*, and so on alternately along the front; every man taking care to turn his head well round the way he speaks, that is to say, the right files over the right shoulder, and the left files over the left, in order to inform their covering men in the rear rank to what files they belong. An officer (acting as adjutant to the troop) then tells them into half ranks, saying to the right hand man, *Right of half rank*; to the 12th *Left of half rank*; to the 13th *Right of ditto*; and to the 24th *Left of ditto*; by quarter ranks, the 1st, 7th, 13th and 19th, being *Right of quarter ranks*, and the 6th, 12th, 18th, and 24th, *Left of ditto*; by subdivisions, the 1st, 4th, 7th, 10th, 13th, 16th, 19th, and 22nd, being *Right of subdivisions*, and the 3d, 6th, 9th, 12th, 18th, 21st, and 24th, being *Left of ditto*; he then tells off the 12th and 13th as centre files, and proceeds to prove the whole

* Vide Letter V.

by

by calling out *Right of half ranks*, on which the 1st and 13th files dart out their right hands in a line from the shoulder, retaining them in that position till the word *As you were* is given; the same for *Left of half ranks*; *Right of quarter ranks*; *Left of ditto*; *Right of sub-divisions*; *Left of ditto*; *Centre files*; *Right ditto*; and *Left ditto*; always remembering if there is an odd file to tell it into the right division; and if two, to put one into each flank.

*Front rank to
open order—
March—Halt.*

On the word *Front rank to open order*; the officers face about inwards to their former front, and on the word *March*, the front rank move forwards to a distance equal to the length of a half rank, that is to say, three horses lengths from the rear rank; the officers keeping one horse's length in front of the whole. The whole dressed by the right.

*N. B. In all the different orders of ranks, one horse's length is reckoned equal to four files in front—viz. —

Open order—three horses length—equal to 12 files.†

* Vide Letter V.

† It was Lord Gower's wish that the front rank should open forwards at first, on account of the horses not being sufficiently in hand to rein back, but the latter mode is now practised in general, though sometimes the ground may require the former.

Order

Order—half that distance—equal to 6 files.

Close order — one horse's length — equal to 4 files.

Close to the croup—as close as possible without treading.

It must be observed that the different orders vary with the strength of the squadron, it being intended that at *Open order* the distance shall be sufficient to wheel by half ranks, the ranks wheeling separately ; at *Order* for quarter ranks to do the same ; at *Close order* by sub-divisions (whether of *fours* or *threes*) in the same manner ; and *Close to the croup*, for the ranks to wheel together.

*Prepare — to
dismount.*

The serjeant on the right moves out at the word *prepare*, facing to the left, so as to be seen distinctly by the whole troop, who look well to him for the motions.

The officers are to face outwards on the word *prepare*, and take their posts on the flanks (at the time the serjeant moves out) in order to dismount with the troop ; and they must remember to come forwards with the odd files (leaving room for the even ones to come up)
that

that they may always appear to be in the front rank.

3 Motions.

1st. Odd files, (which are the right files being 1, 3, 5, 7, &c.) move forwards just clear of their left hand men.

2d. Throw down reins, pull off gloves, and unbuckle collars, flinging the ends of them loose over the horses necks, but under the reins.

3d. Take the end of the bridle reins between the finger and thumb of the right hand, and putting the third finger of the left hand between the reins, flip it down so as to shorten them sufficiently to have a proper command of the horse's mouth whilst dismounting, without checking him so much as to make him rein back; keeping the right elbow square, and the hand flat with the fingers extended, then drop the end of the reins smartly down the right side of the neck, and having taken a lock of the mane in the right hand put it into the left with the reins, clap the right hand on the cap of the right holster, and quit the stirrup with the right foot.

N. B. In learning, these motions must all be taken distinctly from the serjeant and practised slowly; but when perfect, they must be done as quick as possible, making

making but three different motions of the whole as above.

Dismount.

4 Motions from the serjeant as before.

1st. Throw right leg over the cloak, standing up in the left stirrup, keeping the left hand as it was, and clapping the right on the cantle (or back part) of the saddle; the head and body perfectly upright.

2d. Come down, taking the left foot out of the stirrup.

3d. Face to the front, quitting the horse with the left hand, and taking the left rein of the bridoon in the right hand close to the horse's mouth.

4th. Even files come up and dress.

Stand—at ease.

Face to the right, by stepping back with the right foot, and placing the left in a line with it, face to the horse, and examine saddles, girths, cloak-straps, &c. to see whether every thing is firm, and properly placed; also giving time for such as have occasion to quit the ranks.

Attention.

Face to the front, every man holding the left rein of the bridoon in his right hand.

*Prepare — to
mount.*

3 Motions. Officers to the flanks, and serjeant to the front as before directed.

1st. Odd files to the front.

2d. Step back with the right foot, and face to the horse, seizing, and shortening the bridle reins in the left hand, as described in the 3d motion of *preparing to dismount*, but as soon as the reins are properly shortened and the ends thrown down the right side of the withers, keep the right hand elevated, waiting for the signal from the serjeant for—

3d. Seize the left stirrup just above the iron with the right hand, and turning it square to the left foot, put it in as far as the ball (or about one third of of the foot) and no further. Dropping the right hand easily down.

Mount.

4 Motions.

1st. Clap the right hand smartly on the cantle, and raise the body, standing perfectly upright in the stirrup.

2d. Throw the right leg over the cloak, taking the proper seat in the saddle, and putting the right foot into the stirrup, at the same time throwing down the reins on the horse's neck, buckle the collar to the saddle, and put on gloves

All this to be done as quick as possible, and then wait for the signal from the serjeant for—

3d. Place the end of the bridoon across the palm of the left hand, the wrist being bent, and the ends of the fingers towards the body, then putting the third finger of the same hand between the bridle reins, take the end of them between the finger and thumb of the right hand, and draw them sufficiently tight, holding the right elbow square, and the hand flat as before described; throw the end down the right side of the withers and drop the right hand down the thigh; the hand flat, and the thumb nearly in a line with the seam of the breeches.

N. B. The whole of the motions both in mounting and dismounting must be practised slowly till perfect; but afterwards as quick as they can follow the serjeant.

4th. Even files come up; and officers move out to their posts in front.

Sit—at ease.

Supposed waiting for the reviewing general. Officers quit their posts, till the word *Attention*, when they take them
D again

again in front of the second files from the flanks.

Attention.

This when the General appears in sight.

N. B. On this word the serjeant moves out on the right to give the motions for drawing swords.

Draw—Swords.

This when the General approaches the front.

3 Motions.

1. Upon the word *swords* being uttered, direct the eyes to the sword-hilt, bringing the right hand with a sharp action across the body and over the bridle-arm to the sword knot, placing it upon the wrist, and giving the hand a couple of turns inwards, in order to make it fast, at the same time seize the hilt, and wait in this position for the second motion, which will be made by the fleugel man on the right, the back of the hand is to be to the rear.

2. Draw the sword from the scabbard with a full extended arm, at the same time sink the hand till the hilt of the sword is immediately under the chin, with the blade perpendicular, and the back of the hand outwards.

3. Bring the hilt down, to be in a line with the bridle hand, the elbow near
the

the body, the blade perpendicular, and the wrist in a small degree rounded, which turns the edge inwards in the direction of the horse's left ear.

As soon as the swords are drawn, the trumpet sounds a march, and the officers salute together, bending the wrist of the sword-hand so as to present the flat of the sword to the front as they lower the point.

*Rear rank to order — March
Halt. Dress.*

Rear rank move up to half the distance of open order, officers on the flanks of the front rank, each covered by a serjeant, and third serjeant in centre of front rank to dress by.

*By quarter-ranks
to the right —
take ground —
March.
Halt. Dress.*

The whole wheel to the right by quarter-ranks, the ranks wheeling separately.* The whole are to look to the wheeling flank, except the outward flank man, who is to look inwards in order to bring the rest of the division round with him; and the pivot must be very careful to turn his horse slowly on his own ground, carrying the bridle hand a little towards the side he wheels to, and putting the flat of the leg to the flank of

* Vide *Wheeling*, Letter V. in which it will be seen, that there is always a momentary HALT, DRESS, before and after every wheel, to ensure correctness.

his horse on the same side, in order to turn his croup the contrary way; the whole must be done by the smallest efforts possible; this being a general rule in regard to all aids both of hand and heel.

The heads must always be turned at the first part of the word of command.*

Forwards.

March.

Halt. Dress.

March about thirty yards——

N. B. Heads to the left.

*Left wheel——
and form squad-
ron.*

March.

Halt. Dress.

On the word *To the left wheel*, all heads to the right; *and form squadron*, the ranks separate and form the squadron by wheeling to the left. The officer will here be particularly careful to make the pause long enough for the different divisions to gain their exact interval of a quarter-rank from each other, in order to form without confusion.

Forwards.

March.

*Rear rank close
——order.*

Halt. Dress.

Heads to the centre.

Rear rank move forwards to half a horse's length distance from the front.

Left——wheel.

March.

Halt. Dress.

This so as to bring the right flank when wheeled at a proper distance from the General.

* Vide *Dressing*, Letter V.

Forwards.

Forwards.

March.

Heads to the centre.

*Rear rank take
open—order.*

Rear rank keep their ground till the front have gained a distance equal to a half rank. Officers come out one horse's length in front of the second files from the right and left. Commanding officer two horse's lengths in front of the centre. Trumpeter one horse's length in front of him.

Forwards.

Heads to the centre during the whole of this movement.

Eyes right—

When nearly opposite the General, officers salute together, taking time from commanding officer, and recovering swords with him also. The squadron looking well to the right till the whole have passed.

**Slope—swords.*

Lay the points back on the right shoulders.

*Rear rank close—
order.*

● *Halt. Drefs.*

*Left — wheel.
March.*

Heads to the centre.

Halt. Drefs.

Forwards.

March.

Halt. Drefs.

* For the positions of the sword, vide *Charge*, Letter V.

Left — wheel.

March.

Halt. Drefs.

Forwards.

March.

Halt. Drefs.

Left — wheel.

March.

Halt. Drefs.

Forwards.

March.

Halt. Drefs.

Left — wheel

March.

Halt. Drefs.

Forwards.

March.

Carry—swords.

Heads to the centre.

Swords to the proper position as before directed.

*From the right to
the front—
rank off.*

On the word *to the front*—all heads to the right, and on the word *rank off* the right-hand man of front rank advances straight forwards, rest turn to the right, and when they come to the same ground turn to the front and follow; when the front have ranked off, the rear rank do the same. The whole to keep exactly one horse's length from each other, in the following order, viz. Trumpeter, captain, lieutenant, cornet, quartermaster, serjeants, front rank, rear rank.

*Form—squa-
dron.*

This must not be given till the whole are

are passed the General—On the word *Form*, the leader keeps his ground, the others close up, and at the word *squadron*, the front rank trot up smartly and form on his left; right-hand man of rear rank moves up to the distance of open order, rest trot up and form on his left—Officers to their posts in front, serjeants on flanks and centre of front rank, trumpeter on the right—quarter-master in the rear.*

*Rear rank close
—order.*

Rear rank move up to one horse's length distance from the front—Officers to the flanks; quarter-master, centre serjeant and trumpeter remain where they were; flank serjeants rein back to cover officers. Commanding officer to the most convenient place for giving the word.

Halt. Dress.

*Left — wheel.
March.*

Heads to the centre.

Halt. Dress.

Forwards.

Heads to the centre.

March.

Halt. Dress.

*Left — wheel.
March.*

This must not be given till the left flank is in a line with the ground it first occupied. Heads to the centre.

Halt. Dress.

Forwards.

Heads to the centre.

March.

Halt. Dress.

* In order to save ground, the ranks may be formed separately, each as it has passed the general.

*Left — wheel
March.*

*Halt. Dress.
Eyes right.*

Return—swords.

This when the left flank is exactly on the spot from whence it first marched. As soon as halted, the serjeant from the right moves out.

3 Motions from the serjeant. Heads to the serjeant on the word *Return*.

1. Carry the sword-hilt to the hollow of the left shoulder, having the back of the hand outwards, and the blade perpendicular, without pausing. Drop the blade (but not the hand) to the rear close by the left shoulder, directing the eyes to the scabbard,* in which the blade is immediately to be placed, and returned until the *hand* and *elbow* become in a line with each other, square across the body, and keeping the back of the hand directed to the rear.

2. Thrust the sword home into the scabbard, and loosen instantly the sword-knot from the wrist, keeping the hand upon the hilt.

On the motion from the fleugel man, carry the right hand from the hilt with a smart action to the off side.

Caution.

Take care to perform your Evolutions.

To perform sword exercise. †

At the word *evolutions*, the trumpeter moves out to attend the commanding officer.

* By resting the blade upon the bridle arm, the point will easily meet the scabbard.

† Concerning the sword exercise, vide Letter V.

Forwards.

* *Forwards.*—
March.

Dress by the standard or centre.

N. B. When the standard is not in the field, the serjeant on the word *forwards* throws out his right hand to shew the centre, and retains it so till the whole are in motion ; which rule must be observed in all marchings by squadron.

*Rear rank take
open—order.*

As before, excepting that the officers and non-commissioned officers remain in the squadron.

*Half ranks to the
right—double.*

Right half-ranks incline to the left, left half ranks incline to the right and cover them. Heads to the right and left inwards.

Forwards.

The whole march straight forwards. Heads to the right.

*Quarter-ranks to
the right ———
double.*

Quarter ranks incline in the same manner, and cover. Heads to the right and left inwards.

● *Forwards.*

Heads to the right.

* The word is now to be given in the following manner.—THE SQUADRON WILL ADVANCE—MARCH.

N. B. It will be best to give the words, *Halt*, *Dress*, before and after every evolution in general practice, though they may be sometimes used to do them without, for the sake of speed, when perfect.

Form

*Form——Half
ranks.*

Right quarter ranks incline to the right, gaining but little ground to the front; left quarter-ranks incline to the left, and trot up smartly to form half-ranks. Heads to the right and left outwards.

Forwards.

Heads to the right.

*Form——squa-
dron.*

Half-ranks incline in the same manner and form squadron.

Forwards.

Heads to the centre.

*Half ranks to the
right and left
about——wheel
outwards.*

The right half-ranks wheel to the right about; the left do. to the left about. March so far to the rear as to regain the first ground.

Forwards.

Heads to the centre.

*To your proper
front——wheel
inwards.*

Wheel to the right and left about inwards.

Forwards.

Heads to the centre.

*From the right of
half ranks to the
front——file.*

On the first part of the word, all heads to the right, and the right-hand man of each half-rank moves out to the front; on the latter part, the rest turn and follow him, remembering always to go to the

the same ground before they turn to the front. Ranks being at open order must file separately; the front rank going first in all single filings.

*Form ——— squad-
dron.*

Leading files keep their ground, rest trot up and form on their left.

N. B. When the troops are perfect in the movements, the squadrons must be formed by the bugle horn instead of the word of command, throughout the evolutions.

Forwards.

Heads to the centre.

*From the right of
half ranks to the
rear — file.*

Right-hand men go to the right about — rest turn and follow; front rank going first, the right-hand man of the rear rank inclining to the right to give them room to pass.

N. B. in all filings, on the first part of the word, the leading files move out either to the front or rear; and on the latter part, the rest follow.

*Form ——— squad-
dron.*

Leading files go to the right about — rest go round them and form up on their left. Rear ranks at distance of open order.

N. B. Wherever the explanation is divided by a pause, the first part must
be

be done immediately on the first part of the word of command, and the remainder at the last part—but if the explanation has not a pause marked in it, then the whole of the movement is to be done after the word is finished.

Forwards.

Heads to the centre.

From the left of half ranks to the front—file.

Left files advance—rest turn and follow.

Form —— squadron.

Leading files stand fast—rest trot up to the right and form.

Forwards.

Heads to the centre.

From the left of half ranks to the rear——file.

Left files to the left about—rest turn and follow. Front rank going first in all single filings. The leading files of the rear rank must therefore take a little ground to their left when they go about, in order to leave room for the front rank to pass them.

Form —— squadron.

Leading files come to the left about—rest go round them and form upon their right; rear rank at open order.

Forwards.

Heads to the centre.

Rear

<i>Rear rank take —order.</i>	Front rank stand fast—Rear rank move up to half the distance of open order.
<i>Forwards.</i>	Heads to the centre.
<i>From the right of quarter ranks to the front—file.</i>	Same way as directed for half ranks.
<i>Form — squa- dron.</i>	Do.
<i>Forwards.</i>	As before.
<i>From the right of quarter ranks to the rear—file.</i>	Same as half ranks.
<i>Form — squa- dron.</i>	Do.
<i>Forwards.</i>	As before.
<i>From the left of quarter ranks to the front—file.</i>	Same as half ranks.
<i>Form — squa- dron.</i>	Do.
<i>Forwards.</i>	As before.
<i>From the left of quarter ranks to the rear—file.</i>	Same as half ranks.
<i>Form — squa- dron.</i>	Do.
<i>Forwards.</i>	As before.
<i>Rear rank close —order.</i>	Front rank stand fast—Rear rank close up to one horse length distance. <i>Forwards.</i>

Forwards.

As before.

*By ranks from the
flanks to the front
—file.*

Flank men, of the front rank only, come out—rest turn outwards and follow; when the front rank have filed, the flank men of the rear rank go straight forward, rest turn outwards and follow.

*Form — sqa-
dron.*

Leading files stand fast—rest trot up and form to the right and left inwards; rear rank to form at close order. The whole to dress by the flank files, that is to say, the right half ranks to the right, and the left do. to the left, till the next word of command.

Forwards.

Heads to the centre.

*By ranks from the
flanks to the rear
—file.*

Heads outwards; and flank men of front rank face about outwards, going just clear of the rear rank—front rank face outwards and follow; flank men of rear rank face about outwards and follow the last of the front rank, rest turn outwards and follow them.

*Form — sqa-
dron.*

Flank men of front rank face about inwards—rest go round them and form to the right and left inwards; rear
rank

rank do the same and cover their file leaders.

N. B. Always to form squadron in a smart trot after filing, as the length of the file would take up too much time to form slowly. Heads to the flanks.

Forwards.

Heads to the centre.

*From the right of
squadron to the
front—file.*

This begins the double filings. Heads to the right; right hand man of front rank comes out to the front, and do. of rear rank on his right—rest turn to the right and follow each rank after their respective leaders, the whole of the rear rank being now on the right of their front rank men.

*Form ——— squa-
dron.*

Leading front rank man stands fast, leader of rear rank inclines to the left and covers him—front rank trot up and form on the left of their leader, rear rank do the same on the left of their leader, and cover their front rank men.

Forwards.

Heads to the centre.

*From the right of
squadron to the
rear—file.*

Heads to the right; right hand man of rear rank goes to the right about, and ditto of front rank on his left—rest turn to the right and follow their respective

spective leaders; the rear rank being again on the right of the front rank.

Form — Squadron.

Rear rank leader goes to the right about; front rank do. round him and forms in his front—rest go round and form up on the left of their respective leaders.

Forwards.

Heads to the centre.

From the left of Squadron to the front—file.

Heads to the left; left hand man of front rank comes out and ditto of rear rank on his left; it being a general rule in all double filings that in going to the front the rear rank must be on the outside; and in going to the rear, on the inside of their front rank men—rest turn to the left, and follow their respective leaders.

Form — Squadron.

Front rank leader stands fast, rear rank ditto inclines to the right and covers him—rest trot up and form on the left of their leaders.

Forwards.

Heads to the centre.

From the left of Squadron to the rear—file.

Heads to the left; left hand man of rear rank goes to the left about, and ditto of front rank on his right—rest turn

turn to left and follow their respective leaders.

*Form — squad-
ron.*

Rear rank leader to the left about; front rank ditto goes round and forms in his front—rest go round and form on the right of their leaders.

Forwards.

Heads to the centre.

*From the centre
of squadron to
the front—file.*

Standard if in the field, or otherwise centre serjeant, comes out, and two centre files, the two front rank men opening outwards so as to let their rear rank men come up between the standard and them; presenting a front of five, the standard in the centre, a rear rank man of each side next to the standard, and a front rank man on the outside next to each of them—rest turn inwards and follow their leaders, taking care not to turn to the front till they meet in the centre on the same ground from which the leading files advanced; the rear half ranks being now in the middle, and the front half ranks on the outside of them.

*To the right and
left about wheel
— outwards.*

Files on right of standard wheel to the right about; and those on left to the left about, and go down the flanks

E

to

to the rear, standard to right about and go down the centre.

N. B. This on field days to be done by signal of trumpet.

*To the right and
left about wheel
——inwards.*

Standard to right about and go up the centre; files to right and left about inwards, and go up on each side the standard.

N. B. This also by trumpet on regular days.

*Form ——squa-
dron.**

Centre rear rank men stand fast, standard and front rank centre men to the front of them—rest trot up and form on right and left of their leaders.

N. B. This by bugle horn on field days.

*From the flanks
of squadron to
the rear ——
file.*

Heads to the flanks; flank rear rank men to the right and left about outwards, flank front rank ditto on the outside of them—rest turn outwards and follow.

*Form ——squa-
dron.*

Rear rank leaders to the right and left about inwards, front rank ditto

* The squadron may also be formed to the right, by the leading files wheeling to the right, the right half squadron facing to the right and closing to the left, whilst the left half-squadron forms briskly up on the left of the standard—And *vice versa* to the left.

round them, and form in their front—
rest go round their respective leaders
and form to the right and left inwards.

Forwards.

Heads to the centre.

*Squadron to the
right—incline.**

Heads to the right—and on the
word *incline* the horses heads to be
turned by a slight motion of the bridle
hand the same way, so far as will cause
them in marching to gain exactly as
much ground to the right as they do to
the front, and not more; taking care to
preserve the same line in dressing as if
marching straight forwards, the ground
to the right being gained by inclining
and not by a half wheel; this requires
great attention in the officer.

Forwards.

Heads to the centre, and march
straight forwards.

*Squadron to the
left—incline.*

Explained as above, substituting *left*
for *right* throughout.

• *Forwards.*

As before.

*Squadron to the
right—wheel.†*

All heads to the standard by whom
the wheel is to be regulated.

* Vide *Inclining*, Letter V.

† Vide *Wheeling*, Letter V.

N. B. Remember *Halt! Dress!* before and after every wheel.

<i>Forwards.</i>	Heads to the centre.
<i>Squadron to the right—wheel.</i>	As before.
<i>Forwards.</i>	Heads to the centre.
<i>Squadron to the right about—wheel.</i>	The squadron having in this movement double the ground to go over of the last, must be still more attentive to the foregoing explanation.
<i>Forwards.</i>	Heads to the centre.
<i>Squadron to the left—wheel.</i>	As before, substituting <i>left</i> for <i>right</i> throughout.
<i>Forwards.</i>	Heads to the centre.
<i>Squadron to the left—wheel.</i>	As before.
<i>Forwards.</i>	Heads to the centre.
<i>Squadron to the left about—wheel.*</i>	Explained in wheeling to the <i>right</i> about, substituting <i>left</i> .
<i>Halt. Dress. Eyes right.</i>	N. B. The exercising officer will take care to gain as much ground to the rear as possible, between the wheelings, in order to leave sufficient room for the

* The Squadron may next wheel the whole circle to the right and left.

charge,

charge, which requires a very considerable space to the front.

**With cartridge.* As quick as possible return pistols with
prime and load. the fleugel-man.

*Prepare to
charge.*

On this caution the squadron will take care to shorten their reins, so as to have their horses well in hand, and to ensure the perfect command of them during the charge. It is necessary also to observe here, that when a squadron consists of two troops, the officers and non-commissioned officers will be already properly posted to the command of quarter-ranks : viz. The captain to the right, eldest lieutenant to the left, youngest lieutenant to the right centre, and youngest cornet to the left centre quarter-rank (the senior cornet being with the standard in the centre of the whole and remaining there) and will command their respective divisions in skirmishing. But in a single troop the captain being the exercising officer, and therefore not in the ranks; the lieutenant will command the right quarter-rank; the cornet the left ditto; the senior serjeant the right centre; and the second

* This word is only necessary when it is meant to fire with powder.

the left ditto; but in both cases I think it will be better to let the officer second in command, that is the captain in a whole squadron, and the lieutenant in a single troop, remain with the main body (who should have a steady officer with the line) and to make the quarter-master command the right division whilst skirmishing, retiring to his post in the rear as soon as they come in.*

*Squadron for-
wards——
March.*

Heads to the centre — On the word *march*, the bugle horn (by signal from the commanding officer) blows for the right quarter rank to gallop out, and skirmish to the front in the following manner, viz. the front rank fire pistols and stand fast to load as quick as possible; as soon as they have fired the rear rank advance in front to cover them, taking care not to fire till the front rank have loaded, they then fire and stand to load; the front rank advances again to cover them, and so on alternately till the next signal of the bugle horn; the main body marching slowly forwards in line; and as soon as the skirmishers are clear of

* It will be very necessary to look at and observe the posting of officers, according to Letter V. for which vide *Formation of Squadron and Charge*.

the squadron receive the word from the senior officer with the squadron.

Draw—swords.

As soon as necessary after the swords are drawn, the signal of the bugle horn calls in the skirmishers, who return their pistols (loaded) and draw their swords as they come in, falling into their proper places to charge with the squadron. When the whole are dressed and steady, the trumpet (by signal from the commanding officer) sounds for the senior officer with the squadron to give the word.

Trot.

On which the whole put their horses at once into a smart trot. And on the next sound, the same officer orders to—

Gallop.

That is, a canter (or hand gallop.) On the third trumpet he gives the word——

Charge.

Which must be at about three quarters speed; taking great care to keep the ranks as well dressed by the centre (or standard) as if walking.

Halt.

This by the commanding officer. The squadron must be particularly attentive during the charge to keep their

bodies and heads perfectly upright, and their horses well in hand, that they may be able to stop them instantaneously on the word *halt*, without being displaced from their seats; and in stopping will remember to raise the bridle hand, and close the legs gently towards the horse's flanks in order to stop him on his haunches.

* *Prepare to retreat.*

This only as a caution.

Subdivisions about—march.

Left quarter-rank return swords on the word *about*—On the word *march*, the other three quarter-ranks go to the right about by sub-divisions, the whole waiting for the word—

Forwards.

When the bugle horn blows for the left quarter rank to cover the retreat by skirmishing in the following manner; the front rank fire pistols and go to the left about, retreating round the left of, and facing to the front when in the rear of, their respective rear rank men, loading as quick as possible; the rear rank then fire and retreat round them in the same manner; always observing that the moving rank, whether in advancing or

* The words are now given—THE SQUADRON WILL RETREAT, and THREES ABOUT.

retreating,

retreating, must go on the left of the standing rank in order to leave their right hands at liberty: and that the rank which is loaded must reserve their fire till the other is loaded also. The main body march slowly to the rear, receiving from their senior officer the word——

Slope—swords.

As before.

Threes—front.

On the commanding officer giving the word *Threes*, the bugle horn calls in the skirmishers, who return pistols (loaded) and draw swords as they come in—On the word *front*, the squadron wheel to the right about by threes.

Halt.

The whole drefs by the centre; and carry swords at the word *halt*.

*Prepare to——
charge.*

Right centre quarter-rank return swords on the word *charge*.

• *Squadron for-
ward.—
March.*

This as before, except the right centre quarter-rank are now the skirmishers, and that the others must keep the interval open for them to fall into their proper places when called in again, which will be by bugle horn from signal of commanding officer.

Trot

<i>Trot.</i>	}	All by the trumpet as before.
<i>Gallop.</i>		
<i>Charge.</i>		
<i>Halt.</i>		As before.
<i>Prepare to retreat.</i>		Caution as before.
<i>Threes—about—</i>	}	All as in the former retreat, except that the left centre quarter-rank now skirmish, and must have the proper interval left for them to form in.
<i>March.</i>		
<i>Forwards.</i>		
<i>Ease—swords.</i>		
<i>Threes—front.</i>		
<i>Halt.</i>		N. B. Whenever a division skirmishes it must open so as to cover the whole of the main body, whether in advancing or retreating.
<i>Return—swords.</i>		As before.
<i>Squadron forwards—</i>		When they have marched a little way, the bugle horn (by signal from commanding officer) blows for senior officer to give the word <i>disperse</i> , when the whole skirmish irregularly to the front, (except the standard is in the field, when it remains in the rear covered by the quarter-master and flanked by a file on each side) till the bugle gives another signal to rally and form in their proper places by the centre serjeant, who remains in the rear for that purpose.
<i>March.</i>		

N. B.

N. B. Not to load before they return their pistols.

<i>Forwards.</i>	March a few paces forwards.
<i>Halt. Drefs. Eyes right.</i>	Drefs well to the right.
<i>Rear rank to open order—— March—Halt.</i>	As before. Officers coming out to the front, and commanding officer a horse's length before the rest in the centre.
<i>Squadron—— Draw—— swords.——</i>	As soon as the swords are drawn, the officers salute together, taking time from the commanding officer in front.
<i>Return—swords.</i>	As soon as the general quits the field.
<i>Prepare——to dismount.</i>	As before.
<i>Dismount.</i>	Ditto.
<i>Stand—at ease.</i>	Ditto.
<i>Attention.</i>	Ditto.
<i>Prepare——to mount.</i>	Ditto.
<i>Mount.</i>	Ditto.
<i>Rear rank to close order.—— March—Halt.</i>	Front rank stand fast, rear rank move up 7

up to *close order*. Officers to their posts in squadron.

To the right file All turn to the right—and march in
—*March.* that direction.

Dismissed. N. B. This if dismissed in the field ; but if in quarters they march on to the parade, where they receive the words *to the front—turn*, on which the whole turn to the left ; *halt* ; then give out the necessary orders ; after which on the word *rank off—march*, the front rank turn and march to the right, and the left to the left ; the whole going to their quarters,

The above, my Lord, appear to me all the manœuvres necessary for such a corps as ours ; and great as is my desire to save the private gentlemen all superfluous trouble, I do not know that I could possibly curtail them without losing something useful : your Lordship will observe that I have not touched on the formation and deployment of columns, having confined myself chiefly to such movements as are most likely to be of service in the streets and squares of a town ; where (if ever) we are most likely to be called into action ; in which case give me leave to point out the evident utility of advancing from the centre by files ; for instance, supposing a troop to be called out in aid of the civil power, to quell a riot in a manufacturing town, and
drawn

drawn up in a large square or market-place, from the centre of which (as is commonly the custom) a street leads, and from which a mob are to be driven, the troop filing from the centre presents a front of five; (including the centre officer and serjeant) and having cleared the street, are ordered back to their former station, they wheel to the right and left about outwards, and retreat; but in consequence of this movement the rioters having again advanced, it becomes necessary to face them a second time, which is done by wheeling to the right and left about inwards, and advancing in our first order, after which, having entirely cleared that street, the squadron form up in the cross street or road at the further end. The different filings, both single and double, are highly necessary to be practised, as well as the wheelings and inclining to right and left; and without a repetition of the *Charge*, we should be sadly deficient in the grand effort of all cavalry “*Con l’urto del cavallo, & con la spada;*” my intent in the second charge being to give the centre quarter ranks an opportunity of skirmishing in their turns, that every division of the squadron may be equally *au fait* in every part of their business. I have not as I first intended mentioned any thing of *the movements of the line in six squadrons*; nor of the ceremony of fetching and lodging the standards; with many other things, which may, if your Lordship wishes, form the subject of another letter; we have already I trust laid a firm foundation, and the superstructure may be easily added as time requires, or opportunity offers; and with such zeal and unremitting attention

tion as are shewn by those gentlemen whom I have as yet seen in the field, nothing will be too difficult.

I have the honour to be,

Your Lordship's most obedient,

And very faithful Servant,

Elmhurst, Dec. 6th, 1794.

F. P. ELIOT.

LETTER

LETTER IV.
ON THE
SUBJECT
OF THE
ARMED YEOMANRY.

Quis enim hoc non dederit nobis, ut cum operâ^A nostrâ^A patria sive non possit uti, sive nolit, ad eam vitam revertamur quam multi docti homines, fortasse non recte, sed tamen multi, etiam reip. præponendam putaverunt?

CICERON. VARRONI *Epist.*

For who will deny us this, that when our Country shall no longer either stand in need of, or wish for our services, we may then return to that life (of rural occupation,) which many learned men, perhaps erroneously, yet nevertheless many, have preferred even to the business of the state.

My Lord,

WHEN I had first the honor of offering my humble services to the Lord Lieutenant of the county, it was under the most decisive conviction, that the measure then in agitation of arming the Independent Yeomanry, was not merely a wise and salutary provision, but the absolute and unqualified *sine quâ non* of internal tranquility; that it has proved so, is now the acknowledged opinion not only of its original and warmest advocates, but also of its more indolent and cold blooded friends, I believe I may venture to add, of many of its

its former enemies. Nor do I think that I assume too much of the *superbiam quæsitam meritis* in behalf of our brother Volunteers, when I assert that during the whole of the last summer, a period undoubtedly the most pregnant with danger which this country has yet experienced, the peace and order of the populous County *Stafford* was preserved by the exertions of its armed yeomanry; an assertion which will readily be agreed to, when it is recollected, that so perfect was the reliance of Government on the *Volunteer Cavalry*, that not a single regular foldier was quartered in any part of the county, during the whole of that period; when the deficiency of supply for the markets had increased to such an alarming degree of scarcity; whether real or artificial, by no means necessary to inquire here; since in either case the result was the same, as ultimately tending to promote that spirit of riot and insurrection, which the enemies of our glorious constitution were but too ready to excite and foment. But my Lord, the patriotic and gallant ardor, the animated yet tempered zeal of the yeomanry, had its full effect; and the friends of anarchy were baffled and disappointed. In what other manner, or by what different means, let me ask your Lordship, could government have overcome so great a difficulty at an expence so small? I will venture, (for I am certain you will permit me) to frame your answer; “by none that could be devised,”—the cost is as a drop in the financial ocean, whilst the danger we have avoided, hung over our heads, like the mountainous and death-denouncing billow: *Insequitur cumulo præruptus aquæ mons*. I do at this instant, and shall to
the

the last moments of my life believe, that the very existence of the British constitution has depended, and must for ever depend, on the exertions of the yeomanry ; to them has their country been indebted for its present safety, to them must it look forward for its future welfare. I was, my Lord, born and bred a soldier, and though obliged, from the inconvenience of dragging about a large family, to quit the service even at the very moment, when a rapid prospect of preferment began to open to my view, I am still most affectionately attached to my quondam profession, and in my heart as much as ever a soldier ; I must therefore of course be partial to the line in which I have moved ; but in spite of that partiality, I am perfectly clear in pronouncing, that neither the Regulars, for whom I feel that *olim meminisse juvabit* so delightful in retrospective recollection, nor the more constitutional force of militia, excellent as they are (and where shall we look for greater excellence than in the militia of our own country,) I have not a moment's hesitation in asserting, that neither the militia nor regulars will bear the smallest comparison with the yeomanry, for the purpose of internal defence. To oppose an undisciplined mob, the degree of tactical science which they have already acquired will be found perfectly sufficient ; and should it ever be necessary, (which God forbid), to require more regular exertions at their hands, it is well known to every military man, how soon service makes soldiers. But it is not their ostensible, their military character, in which alone they are of use, it is (if I may so express myself,) the preventive service of their private situations, whereby they may

greatly benefit their country; it is whilst pursuing their usual occupations in the quiet walks of civil life, that they will select the dangerous and designing from amongst their neighbours; and by making them feel that they are marked characters, they will repress the disaffected, and awe the ill-disposed. The friends of innovation (might I not have said *insurrection*;) may truly apply to the yeomanry, what Mr. Burke has said of the French anarchists, “ *they are about us, they are upon us.*”

But there is another description of soldiery, which I have not yet touched upon; and of whom I confess it is with fear and trembling that I speak, for I have the honor, let me add the pleasure, of being intimately acquainted with many officers of Fencible Cavalry, and can bear witness to the extreme attention which they pay to the conduct and instruction of their men, and to the consequent excellence of their appearance; besides as being raised and officered by gentlemen of family and property, there is a degree of respectability attached to those corps which almost arrests the tongue of criticism: but if I am to point out their utility, I confess I feel it not; for every purpose of internal defence they are at last equalled, and in some as I have already shewn surpassed by the Yeomanry; whilst for external and offensive operation they are nonentities; and certainly it must be grating to the Regulars, on whom the whole burthen of foreign service falls, to have other corps enjoying at their ease in England, the same pay and emoluments, for which they are obliged to brave
all

all climates, and all dangers. The only object then in view of government in raising Fencible corps I imagine must be to ease the half-pay list, by having it in their power at the end of a war to reduce so many officers, who have no claim to future reward on the score of past service; but this also is the case with the Yeomanry; and on this ground therefore as the law says *cadit questio*; and as to present expence no question can arise at all, for the charge of raising, arming, mounting and subsisting one regiment of Regular or Fencible Cavalry for a year, would suffice for at least ten times the number of Yeomanry, at least as far as that part of their expenditure which falls on government to supply, viz.—the pay of one serjeant and horse per troop, and the cost of a sabre and one pistol, with the necessary accoutrements per man for the whole corps. Before I quit the subject of Fencible Cavalry, I feel it necessary to apologize to the officers commanding them; I must beg them to believe, that as individuals I most truly respect them, and that even collectively as regiments I have an high opinion of their excellence; it is with the nature of their establishment only that I find fault, *amicus Plato, sed magis amica veritas*, my partiality for the men must not blind me to the measure.

Your Lordship will observe me to have said above, that the present proportion of expence to government, in arming, accoutring, &c. the Yeomanry, would hardly suffice for one-tenth of the number of Regular or Fencible Cavalry; but let me be fairly understood, I do not by any means wish to assert that this would be the case

the expiration of the war ; for it cannot be expected that those persons who have so laudably and liberally subscribed towards the support of the present expence, should renew or continue in time of peace those subscriptions which were intended to meet the emergency of the moment ; it will therefore be necessary to enquire how far the permanency of the volunteer establishment may be regarded as a measure of œconomy, when the whole of the expenditure shall fall on the public. Supposing the war to last to the end of the present campaign, (and longer I apprehend, the financiers of France will find it rather difficult to provide supplies,) it will certainly be highly politic in government to continue the armed Yeomanry for the first year of peace, to which period I imagine in most counties, the present subscriptions will carry us without any assistance from the treasury ; from that time therefore, if continued at all, it must be wholly at the public expence ; for I trust that the liberality of the subscribers will be handsomely exerted in giving at the end of the present period of enrolment to the volunteers those uniforms, &c. of every kind which they have worn in their defence ; and indeed the Monmouth-street œconomy of selling a few old coats would be infinitely beneath the dignity of an opulent county. The clothing then must be entirely new found ; but as it is to be recollected, that the volunteer has no other tie to retain him in the service but that of honor ; and that he may leave it any time as convenience or caprice may dictate, we must keep in mind that mode of supplying the necessary uniforms which may be the least expensive to government,

ment, and which will undoubtedly be found to be by allowing a certain sum in lieu of every kind of expence, for each day he actually appears in the field ; to fix the exact equivalent, would require a nice and critical calculation ; but I imagine about 5s. per day* to be paid only for actual attendance, would probably suffice ; and in order to explain the principle upon which I have proceeded in fixing the above sum, without going into all the minutiae of arithmetic, I shall only observe, that after supposing the volunteer not to expect any remuneration for his own time or the keep of his horse, but merely to be repaid those extra expences which he actually disburfes, in consequence of providing himself with arms and regimentals, I allow him about 2s. 6d. per day, for wear and tear of clothing, 1s. for ditto of arms, and 1s. 6d. for ditto of accoutrements ; this may perhaps seem an extravagant allowance, and so it would be, were he to be in constant pay and employment ; but I am supposing that he is only required to attend the field one day in every month, and it will then be found, that three pounds per annum will be little enough to reimburse his actual expenditure ; for though a coat which is worn every day may perhaps with care last one year, yet it cannot be expected that that which is put on but once in a month should in the same proportion last thirty years ; the natural decay of the materials puts such an idea out of the question. There is another difficulty which at present exists in regard to

* Should a volunteer be called out oftener than once in the month, I would allow him 5s. for the first day, and about 3s. or 3s. 6d. for every subsequent day of attendance in the same month.

the clothing, and which would be avoided by the method proposed of making an allowance to provide their own uniforms; it is supposed of course, that the clothing, &c. now found by the county is only intended to be worn in the field, and at no other time whatever; but it is very well known that many of the young volunteers, not only put on the regimentals to make a smart appearance at wakes and other merry meetings, but that the boots and breeches are often used to ride to markets and fairs, when they happen to be nearest at hand, and that the regimental bridle and saddle will now and then *by chance*, escort a sack of flour to the mill; the consequence of which is, not only an unequal appearance in the uniforms, but that many are already applying for new clothing, whilst those who have very properly regarded every article of the military paraphernalia as sacred to the field only, have kept theirs perfectly clean and whole. Now though the inequality of appearance will not be so easily got over, yet in point of expence to government it will be exactly the same whether a Yeoman wears his regimentals one day in the month or thirty, as he will only be paid for them in proportion to their actual wear and tear in the field— But it should be remembered that though they find their own things, there must be a restriction to the regimental pattern both in fashion and quality. We will suppose then that on an average it may be necessary to call out the troops, either in aid of the civil power or for any other purpose, four times in the year, which added to the twelve monthly field days, will increase the annual charge to four pounds per man, and fixing
the

the peace establishment at six and thirty rank and file (two of the private gentlemen acting as serjeants without any further emolument) the whole charge per troop will be as follows,—viz.

	£.	s.	d.
3 officers, 2 serjeants and 34 privates at 4l. each.	156	0	0
1 quarter-master to 2 troops—half per troop	54	15	0
1 serjeant and horse per troop - - - - -	54	15	0
1 trumpeter and do. do. - - - - -	54	15	0
	320	5	0

To which add for arming, clothing and mounting the serjeant and trumpeter; powder for exercise, and other contingencies—the	}			
gross sum of - - - - -		44	15	0

Making the whole charge per troop amount only to 365 0 0

The number of troops necessary for the whole kingdom of England and principality of Wales may be easily ascertained, by proportioning them at about one-fourth of the militia; thus *Staffordshire*, which furnishes 560 militia men, may be fixed at 4 troops, or 144 rank and file Yeomanry; whilst the West Riding of Yorkshire, whose contingent of militia is 1240, will have 9 troops or 324 volunteers, at the same rate that the larger Welch counties would have two and the smaller only one troop each; and as the total militia mounts to 30740, the proportion of Yeomanry would be 7685 men, or about 214 troops, which at 20s. per day, or 365l. per ann. per troop, swells the whole amount to no more than 78,110l. or to make even money about 80,000l. per annum—now as every troop of regulars at the same

establishment costs government nearly if not quite 3000l. annually, and of course 214 troops would be upwards of 642,000l. or eight times the charge of the same number of Yeomanry, I am nearer to the proof of my first assertion than I could have imagined; even when the whole cost of the Yeomanry is to fall on the public. But I am not Quixote enough to propose the reduction of all the Regulars in order to substitute Volunteer Cavalry in their places; I only wish to recommend the experiment of keeping up the volunteer corps in lieu of a part of the Regulars; for instance, the reduction of five regiments or 30 troops of Dragoons, will more than supply the whole expence of the Yeomanry.

The next question then which naturally arises on the subject is, whether the present Volunteers will choose to continue any longer than the end of the war, (or at most to the expiration of the first year of peace) for which term only they think themselves, and indeed with great justice) as bound in honour to serve? in answer to this I believe that many of the more elderly gentlemen and yeomen will probably wish to retire at that time, but I have no doubt, that the greater part of the middle aged and younger men will gladly keep on the red coat and its smart appendages, and that many others will be ready to enrol in the room of those who retire; at least it may be well worth the experiment, as government, by pursuing the mode of payment I have proposed, will be put to no further expence than the proportion of actual service; by not advancing any sums for clothing, arming, &c. and in order to save any additional

additional trouble to the pay-master general and auditor of imprest, whose accounts are already infinitely too complicated, I would have every commanding officer of a troop send a monthly pay bill to the receiver-general of the land-tax for the county, who should be empowered to issue the amount.

Should the above plan either be rejected, or not answer on trial, I should as the next most feasible measure recommend an augmentation of the same number of cavalry to the militia; that is to say * 4 troops in *Staffordshire* with an additional lieutenant colonel, major, 2 captains, 4 lieutenants, 4 cornets, &c. and in the same proportion in other counties; thus making every regiment of militia a sort of provincial legion; and in order to place them on the most œconomical footing, I would only have one troop embodied at a time (in peace) for two months each, and the horses turned out to graze for the four remaining summer months; by

* The proportion of horse militia is taken from the present contingents of militia men furnished by the several counties; but as a plan is in agitation for considerably augmenting the militia, the cavalry of each legion may be extended in the same proportion without a farthing additional expence to government in time of peace, by having instead of 4 troops embodied each for 2 months in rotation, 6 troops for 6 weeks each, or 8 troops for 1 month each—the quarter-master and non-commissioned officers of the one embodied troop only being kept on pay, and serving equally as well for 8 troops as for 1—the same principle of œconomy may also be kept in view in regard to the purchase of horses, by mounting them on the cast horses of such regular or fencible cavalry as may be reduced at the time.

N. B. Since the above was committed to press, the act for raising a provisional cavalry suggests the further œconomy of procuring the horses also by ballot instead of putting government to the expence of purchasing them.

which

which means one set of horses will do for all the four troops in time of peace; as will also 1 quarter-master, 3 serjeants, 1 trumpeter and 1 farrier, who will all be attached to the one embodied troop, for eight months, and during the summer months they will only have to superintend (under the command of the quarter-master) the clothing and arms in store, and the horses at grass; and in war time by mounting the other three troops, they will answer instead of fencibles; with this considerable advantage, that at the commencement of a war your horse militia will be composed of disciplined soldiers already enlisted, and the fencibles of raw recruits and those to raise. I acknowledge that there would be some difficulty (though by no means an insuperable one) in extending the same principle of œconomy in regard to the non-commissioned officers and the horses to smaller counties, which could only be done by allowing but one set to two adjacent counties, such for instance as Cumberland and Westmoreland, which in proportion to their militia would have but two troops each; and in regard to the smaller Welch counties, where one set must serve for four of them, there would still be more difficulty in the transfer; and yet I know not any other method by which so great a share of the charge as three parts in four could be saved to government. The only mode which strikes me as most convenient and feasible would be; instead of the number of small independent corps which Wales furnishes at present, to divide the militia of the whole principality into three districts, each raising one legion as follows:

North

North District.	{	Anglesea	80	foot foldiers and	20 horse
		Caernarvon	80	do. - - -	20 do.
		Flint	120	do. - - -	30 do.
		Denbigh	280	do. - - -	70 do.
		Total	<u>560</u>	or 10 companies	<u>140</u> or 4 troops.

Midland District.	{	Merioneth	80 foot	and	20 horse
		Montgomery	240 do.	- - -	60 do.
		Cardigan	120 do.	- - -	30 do.
		Radnor	120 do.	- - -	30 do.
Total		560,	or 10 comp.	140,	or 4 troops.

Southern District.	{	Pembroke	160 foot	and	40 horse
		Carmarthen	200 do.	- - -	50 do.
		Brecknock	160 do.	- - -	40 do.
		Glamorgan	360 do.	- - -	90 do.
		Total	880, or 16 comp.		220, or 6 troops.

Thus the North Wales legion would consist of four troops of cavalry, and 10 companies of infantry, the Mid-Wales legion would be the same strength, whilst the legion of South Wales would have 6 troops of cavalry and 16 companies of foot soldiers. But if the difficulty of arranging the transfer of horses agreeably to the above plan, should prove the means of giving a preference to the armed yeomanry, I confess it would afford me the highest satisfaction; I think them, in every point of view in which they can possibly be placed, so infinitely superior to every other kind of force for the purpose of internal defence:---*a rank and file of property*, to use the emphatic expression of Arthur Young, is absolutely

folutely neceeffary for the falvation of the empire.---
 Another material difference is, that the whole four
 troops of yeomanry are ready to be called out in a few
 hours in cafe of emergency, whereas you will never
 have more than one troop of horfe militia embodied at
 once (in time of peace,) and during the four fummer
 months whilst the horfes are at grafs, (and which it is
 alfo to be recollected is the moft dangerous becaufe the
 deareft part of the year) you are totally deftitute of
 any provincial cavalry; and further the coft of the one
 embodied troop of militia would be double that of all
 the four of yeomanry. But even fuppoſing the yeo-
 manry and horfe militia to be much lefs diſtant than
 what I truſt I have proved them to be in point of ex-
 pence; yet on the ſcore of real utility in the ſervice of
 peace and order, there ever will be a difference which
 muſt baniſh every idea of expence out of the queſtion.
 The ranks of the volunteer cavalry are filled with
 men of that reſpectability of character, and indepen-
 dence of ſituation, which muſt neceſſarily command
 the confidence of their friends, as well as the fear of
 their enemies; they are the real conſtitutional, and
 ancient defenders of the kingdom, the deſcendants of
 thoſe men whoſe atchievements in the fields of Creci,
 Poictiers and Azincour, have culled the faireſt flowers
 that grace the Britiſh wreath.

And you, good yeomen,
 Whoſe limbs were made in England, ſhew us here
 The mettle of your paſture; let us ſwear
 That you are worth the breeding; which I doubt not,
 For there is none of you ſo mean and baſe,

That

That hath not noble lustre in your eyes.
 I see you stand like greyhounds in the slips
 Straining upon the start. The game's a-foot,
 Follow your spirit; and upon this charge
 Cry—God for England, Harry, and St. George.—

These words, my Lord, which our immortal bard has put into the mouth of the fifth Harry before the glorious battle of Azincour, point out too clearly to be misunderstood who were the men in whom he placed his confidence against the multitude of his enemies; they were the Yeomanry of England, the ancestors of those men who now stand forth with this additional merit, that unforced and uncontrolled by the oppressions of a feudal system, they offer to their country their free and spontaneous services. That to those services that country may in future trust her salvation, is my most sincere wish; but to what extent to accept, or in what manner to regulate them when accepted, I leave to your Lordship, whose sources of information, and acquaintance with the subject are so superior to any I can pretend to; feeling myself perfectly repaid for the time spent in collecting and committing to paper the above hints, should they happily prove the foundation of any thing useful. *Sed quod, quando, & quomodo, & per quos agendum sit, tu optime constitues.*

I have the honour to remain,

Your Lordship's

very faithful

and devoted humble servant,

F. P. ELIOT.

Elmhurst, June 6, 1796.

P. S. Your Lordship having on the perusal of the above letter very kindly suggested the danger of giving offence to the other armed forces of the kingdom, by dwelling so much on the superiority of the Volunteer Cavalry for the purpose of internal defence, I have again earnestly looked over every passage relative to such superiority: and find it such a leading principle, so closely interwoven with the whole context of my letter, that without a total change in the entire sense and purport of it, I hardly know how to expunge the obnoxious passages—And yet, my Lord, I have so much more dependence on your judgment than on my own, and am at the same time so anxiously earnest to avoid all possibility of giving offence to men whom I so highly respect and esteem as my brother soldiers of every class and denomination, that if I imagined they could think me capable of a serious attempt to lessen their real merits, or to rob them in the smallest degree of that honest fame they are so well entitled to, whether militia, regulars, or fencibles, I would sooner commit every line I have written to the flames, than suffer an idea so widely differing from my real intention to meet the public inspection; at least if such appears in my writing, I can safely say, the error proceeds not from the heart, but from the head; the feeble organs of the latter erring but too often with me, in expressing the dictates of the former.

It has never been my wish to establish any sort of comparison between the Yeomanry and the other species of soldiery in a military light; to put ourselves on
a footing

a footing with them in point of tactical science, or even general military utility, would be only to expose our own weakness; it is solely for the mere purpose of internal defence, of preserving the peace of our own neighbourhood, and of suppressing the first symptoms of riot or insurrection, that I would wish to impress on the public mind the superior fitness of the yeomanry; it is the *preventive* service of our private situations, as I have ventured to call it, which constitutes our only superiority; to criticise our military knowledge, would be indeed to "*break a butterfly upon the wheel.*" It has been my aim throughout, however obscurely I may have expressed it, to exhibit the *Volunteer Cavalry* not as a military corps, but as a body of arm'd constables; a sort of *Posse Comitatus*; exemplifying in real practice what the miserable jargon of French theorists has denominated *Citoyens-Soldats*. In this light, and this light only, therefore, I cannot but look on them as preferable to any other armed force, for the sole purpose of *local* and *temporary* defence. Let me trust then that the same candor and liberality which has induced your Lordship to point out the probable danger of offending, and to express your truly laudable wish of avoiding any thing offensive, will be exerted by the gentlemen of the Regulars, the Fencibles and Militia, in taking my words in their *true*, or at least *intended* sense, for if the former differs so far from the latter as to offend at all, I must beg them to be assured that it proceeds merely from a want of perspicuity, and by no possible means from a deficiency of respect for my brother-soldiers. On *this* head at least, I am in perfect possession

possession of the *nil conscire sibi*. And indeed, my Lord, so anxious am I to deprecate every apprehension of offence, that I would at once suppress the whole letter, did I not think I am paying them a greater compliment by committing myself to their liberal discrimination. I will venture then to introduce my youngest (and of course favourite) offspring to the world, nor can I recommend it to your Lordship's guardianship and *correction* in more appropriate words than those of Pliny:—" *Librum, quem prioribus epistolis promiseram exhibeo. Hunc rogo ex consuetudine tuâ & legas & emendes: eo magis, quod nihil ante peræque eodem ἔργῳ scripsisse videor.*"

Elmhurst, June 20th, 1796.

LETTER

LETTER V.

CONTAINING

EXPLANATORY REMARKS

ON THE

HORSE EVOLUTIONS.

Mostly occasioned by the new Instructions and Regulations for the Movements of Cavalry, ordered by his Majesty's Command, to be observed and practised by the Cavalry Corps in general.

The rules hereafter laid down will be found few, simple, and adapted to the understanding and comprehension of every individual; but they will require perfect attention in all ranks.

DUNDAS'S *Instructions and Regulations.*

My Lord,

THE spirit of emulation so laudably evinced by the gentlemen of all ranks in the corps, in making themselves so soon masters of the evolutions contained in my last letter, induces me to point out a few more movements, which if not absolutely necessary for a body of Yeomanry, may at least prove highly useful to be acquainted with; will in practice a little relieve the dull uniformity of constantly repeating the same manœuvres; and by those who are sufficiently versed in the horse evolutions, which contain the fun-

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damental principles of all subsequent movements, will be attained with little additional trouble; perfect attention and a moderate degree of recollection are all that are necessary to ensure success.

Before I proceed to any new movements it will be proper to point out such variations from the old mode of performing the horse evolutions, as are to be adopted in consequence of the publication of Maj. Gen. Dundas's very excellent and scientific Instructions and Regulations for the Movements of Cavalry; a work for the labour and ingenuity of which, the author is entitled to the sincerest thanks of every cavalry corps in the service, and which was the more wanted because that prior to its publication, the methods of performing the several manœuvres varied in almost every different regiment, some telling off by fours, others by threes; some dressing to the standing and others to the moving flank in wheeling; with many other variations so fully experienced at the first formation of the Yeomanry corps, by procuring drill serjeants for the separate troops from different regular regiments; the perception of which first impressed me with the necessity of endeavouring to draw up something of an uniform sketch of discipline for the use of the Staffordshire Volunteer Cavalry, at the same time feeling, I confess, a distant hope that it might be found not unworthy the inspection of our brother volunteers in other counties; by whom if it should be perused with any advantage however small, I shall feel abundantly satisfied for the mental labour (and which I can assure them has proved no trivial task)

task) of selecting from the mass of regular tactics, and endeavouring to explain so as to render familiar to persons unacquainted with military movements, such manœuvres as may be useful for a body of Yeomanry.

Remarks.

In order to save all unnecessary trouble both to officers and private gentlemen, I shall premise that it has been my great object to vary as little as possible from the former instructions, and that in all cases where those instructions do not absolutely clash with the new regulations, they are still to be observed and practised as before.

Posts of Officers, &c. in Squadron.

In order to have a sufficient number of persons in the troop qualified to cover officers, and to act occasionally as pivot leaders, it will be found expedient for every captain to appoint three of the most intelligent private gentlemen to act as lance corporals (or what the French call *anspessades*) without any distinction in dress, and told in as files, but posted on the flanks of such divisions as may appear most in want of them when in the field; and therefore supposing the troop as before to consist of 48 private volunteers, &c. the posting will be according to the figures on the plates, in which I have endeavoured to point out the post of every officer and non-commissioned officer, in almost every possible situation into which he can be thrown by the movements of the squadron. The posting in these figures is according to the new regulations, and should be strictly attended to; but as it will often happen in a corps of

Yeomanry that the whole of the officers and non-commissioned officers will not be present, the exercising officer will observe the priority of commands according to the figures 1 and 3; always filling up first the places which are there given to the senior officers, and giving any vacant post to the next in rank to the absent person, and so on throughout.

Telling off.

The squadron is told off by

Half squadrons.

Four divisions.

Eight sub-divisions.

Ranks by threes.

Files, right and left.

Half squadrons—is the squadron divided into two equal parts, in the centre of which is the standard.

Divisions—is each half squadron divided into equal (or nearly equal) parts, but so that the centre half shall sub divide exactly by threes.

Sub-divisions—is each division divided into two equal (or nearly equal) parts, but in this case the sub-division must not be less than six files, otherwise the squadron will open out, therefore, if there are not 48 files in the whole squadron the telling by sub-divisions must be omitted.

Ranks by threes—is each half squadron told off by threes, beginning at the standard (exclusive) and telling

telling off to each flank of the squadron: this telling is calculated for the retreat of the squadron, by each rank wheeling independently to the right about by threes; also for a flank march of the squadron, six men in front, by each rank wheeling to the flank by threes, and moving on—The deployments from close column into line, and from line into close column, are also made ranks by threes—and it is the only rank wheeling (with that by twos occasionally) essential to the movements of the squadron.

Files, right and left—is each half squadron told off by alternate files, beginning at the standard (exclusive) and proceeding to each flank of the squadron, this telling off is calculated for reining back or coming forward, and doubling alternate files in order to dismount; also for a flank march of the squadron, four in front, by each rank wheeling up to the ordered flank by twos, and moving on.

The divisions of ranks—arise of course out of those of the squadron, they are half ranks, quarter ranks, eighths of ranks, answering to the half squadron, division and sub-division. Ranks may also occasionally be told off by fours, for purposes of parade.

The distances of ranks are taken from the head of the rear rank horse, to the tail of the front one—the essential ones in future will be but two.

Close order—half the length of a horse (about three feet and a half) sufficient for the wheeling of ranks by

threes, it is the constant and essential distance of formation and movement; all other distances are only occasional exceptions from it, used in exercise and situations of parade.

Order—a distance equal to one third of the squadron, taken in dismounting and in parade.

Other distances may be taken, when so required, by previous explanatory commands.

The distance of files, at which the squadron forms and moves, is six inches from boot-top to boot-top, being calculated for the gallop as well as the walk of the squadron.

Close files—is the distance taken before dismounting, when each man's boot-top touches, but without pressing.

Open files—the full breadth of a horse from boot-top to boot-top; it is the distance left, when from close files the left files rein back in order to dismount; and it is a distance at which raw men and horses must be much exercised.

Formation of the Troop.

Each troop forms on its own troop-parade, in a rank entire, and sized from right to left. The commanding officer tells off the rear rank, forms two deep at close order, by filing or by reining back and passing; and if necessary, according to the place of the troop in
squadron,

squadron, counter-marches the ranks ; because of the two troops which compose the squadron, the right one is sized from left to right, and the left one from right to left ; in order to place the largest men and horses in the centre of the squadron---this must not be neglected. He then places an officer on each flank of the front rank, and covers him by a corporal ; he tells the troop off in two divisions, and places a serjeant on the right of the left division, covered also by a corporal. He also tells off by files, right and left ; the quarter master is in the rear of the centre, the trumpeter is on his right, and the farrier (if any) on his left ; the supernumerary serjeants are also in the rear. The troop thus formed is marched, either a division in front, or ranks by twos (four men in front ;) or if it is necessary by file (two men in front, which in streets and roads is generally the best, on account of opening to admit the passing of carriages) to the rendezvous of the squadron, where it is again formed and halted.

If the troop is to act singly, and not to join in squadron (which is often the case with Yeomanry) it will then be additionally told off by ranks by threes, and also by sub-divisions, if it is strong enough to admit of it. In this case the posting will be according to Fig. 1.

Formation of the Squadron.

When the squadron is to be formed, the two troops that compose it close in to each other—the officers then move out, and form in a rank advanced two horses length, fronting to their troops. The serjeants and

covering corporals rein back, and dress with the quarter master in the rear. The commanding officer of the squadron completes the files, and equalizes the troops, by shifting a file or two if necessary. The officers are then ordered to their posts in squadron, viz. one in the centre for the standard, and one on each flank of the front rank; each of these three is covered by a corporal. The other officers place themselves in the rear as *serrefiles* at two horses length distant from the rear rank. For which see Fig. 3.---It will be observed in the plate that I have given the standard to the cornet of the captain's troop, without regard to the former etiquette of his being the senior cornet; but in order to preserve a point of much greater consequence, to post the officers with their own troops as much as possible—the standard will therefore always be given to the cornet of that troop which is strongest in officers, recollecting that the senior officer in the field, as commanding both troops, is to be excluded from the strength of either.

The commanding officer then tells off the squadron—by *two half squadrons*—by *four divisions*—placing a serjeant, covered by a corporal, on the right of each of the three left divisions—by *eight sub-divisions*, each being the half of a division. He then tells off each half squadron, by *ranks by threes*, and by *alternate files, right and left*, beginning from the standard (exclusive) and telling off to each flank; observing always that the file on the right of the standard is to be told a *left file*,
and

and that on the left of the standard a *right file*, in order to favor the movements of *ranks by twos*.

When the strength of the squadron admits of each division being told off exactly into *threes*, it is an eligible circumstance; but at any rate care must be taken that the centre divisions divide exactly by *threes*, (and their flank serjeants be posted accordingly) although the flank ones do not, and are thereby a file or two stronger or weaker—If there is at last a two or a four on either flank it must so remain, as in the most advantageous situation for aiding the wheels.

When the squadron is formed, the officers and non-commissioned officers are thus placed, according to Figure 3.

Commanding Officer { Advanced a horse's length before
the standard.

Two Officers { One on each flank of the front rank,
covered by a corporal.

One Officer { Carrying the standard in the centre
of the front rank, covered by a
corporal.

Three Serjeants { One on the right of each of the three
left divisions, and each covered by
a corporal or private gentleman.

The supernumerary or *serrefile* officers and serjeants, the quarter-masters and trumpeters, are in the rear of
their

their respective troops, divided in a line at two horses length distant from the rear rank; and their business is to attend to the movements of the squadron, and particularly to the good behaviour of the rear rank. As the squadrons of the Staffordshire Volunteer Cavalry have but one quarter-master each, who is attached to the field officer's troop, I have posted him in the plates (Figures 3 and 5) in the centre of the whole squadron, but in such corps as have two, they will be in the centre of their respective troops. The farriers (if any) are to be a horse's length in rear of the quarter-masters (or rather of the centre of their respective troops.)

By this distribution, allowance is made for sick and absent officers, and non-commissioned officers; and if a sufficient number of any rank is not present, then serjeants replace officers, corporals replace serjeants, and intelligent privates replace corporals.

The essential post of the quarter-masters is always in the rear of the squadron when in line, but in change of position in column they may, when necessary, be ordered to conduct pivots of divisions; and when the line is forming or dressing in a given direction, they may be usefully employed in giving true points in that line to their respective squadrons.

Such officers and serjeants and their coverers (except the standard) as are on the flanks, or in the ranks, are told off as files and as flank men of divisions, and on all occasions

occasions file or wheel with them, except when the ranks wheel by twos or threes; then the standard, together with the flank officers, and those that cover them, turn singly, each man on his own ground, and retain the same relative place in the squadron whether going to the front, rear, or flank.

When any of those officers or serjeants, shift from their proper places to conduct pivots, &c. as hereafter directed, their coverers occupy such place during their absence, and on their return again resign it. When such officers or serjeants, without shifting, naturally become pivot leaders, their coverers then place themselves behind the third file of the division their leaders conduct, because pivot leaders of divisions are never in column to be covered, but each to remain single on the flank of the front rank of his division, that he may thereby be the more conspicuous, and that those several leaders may the more accurately and easily cover each other, when the march is in a straight alignement; or when the column is halted in such alignement, and is to form the line by the wheel up of its divisions to its proper flank.

- In order to preserve each troop entire, it is not material if one division is a file stronger than another, and in general the flank division will be the strongest from the addition of officers; officers will be posted with their own troops as much as possible. Corporals not wanted to mark the divisions, or to cover officers or serjeants, will be either in the ranks according to their
size,

size, or placed in the outward flank file of their troops. Farriers are considered as detached, in all situations of manœuvres.

All these *general* circumstances of formation apply and take place, whether the squadron is composed of two or any other number of troops, and whether they are more or less strong; it is therefore particularly necessary for officers exercising corps of Yeomanry, to make themselves perfect masters of the above principles, because their squadron and troops vary so greatly, and so often in effective strength.

When the Squadron takes Order.

The squadron being formed at *close order*, if (*parade*) *order* is to be taken, the commanding officer gives the word REAR RANK TAKE ORDER, and the distance is immediately ascertained by an officer or non-commissioned officer of the rear, and behind which ever flank the squadron is then dressing to. At the word MARCH, the rear rank reins back to its proper distance; the standard, as also all the officers, move out briskly a horse's length, and divide themselves in front of their own troops and the squadron, at equal distances: the whole are dressed to a flank, and the commanding officer a horse's length in front of the standard. The trumpeters move up on the flank of the front rank of their respective troops, and the quarter-masters and farriers remain in the rear.

When

When the Squadron takes close Order.

When from *order* the squadron is to take *close order*, the word TAKE CLOSE ORDER is a caution; at the word MARCH, the rear rank moves forward to close order, and officers, non-commissioned officers, trumpeters, &c. take their posts as before.

In regiment or line, the squadrons form with an interval betwixt each, equal to one third of their actual front.

Division in its general sense, is often used to express whatever part of a squadron the front of a column may be composed of; but its specific meaning signifies the fourth part of the squadron only—for instance, *the pivot leaders of divisions in column*, means the officers or non-commissioned officers commanding the separate parts of a column, whether *half squadrons, divisions or subdivisions*; whereas a caution from the commanding officer, that THE SQUADRON WILL WHEEL TO A FLANK BY DIVISIONS, implies that it is to break into four parts only.

- The squadron never breaks into *divisions* of threes or twos. When the word *threes or twos* is made use of, it invariably means *ranks* by threes or twos.

The half wheel, the quarter wheel, the eighth wheel of divisions, means their wheeling the half, quarter, or eighth of the quarter circle.

When

When threes wheel *about*, it is always to the right about.

*General circumstances, regulating the Movements
of the Squadron, Regiment, or Line.*

The same general circumstances must govern and determine the movements of the squadron, regiment, or line. Those of the smaller bodies are therefore deduced, and arise from such as are required in, and are essential to, the operations of the greater body. As a squadron of two troops is the body which is oftener assembled in the field than any other, particularly in corps of yeomanry, these instructions will be calculated for a squadron; and the application of them by extension to a regiment or line, or by contraction to a single troop, will be found sufficiently easy, by those who make themselves masters of them in their present form.

All the various movements of the squadron are compounded of—*Passaging and reining back—Dressing—Marching in front—Wheeling—Filing—Inclining.*

Passaging and reining back.

When ground is to be taken to the flank by passaging, the whole body moves at the word, TO THE (*right or left*) PASS! and halts immediately on the word HALT: and therefore successive movements of files is not to be permitted, nor will it be attempted if the command is given in a strong and decided tone.

In

In reining back of bodies or ranks, the whole look to the hand to which they ought to form or dress, the movement is never to be hurried; but to be made in order, and the horses kept straight.

Dressing.

Dressing is occasionally to right, centre or left, as ordered.

The squadron and all bodies till otherwise ordered.	<i>Dress</i>	{ To the hand to which they form.
	<i>March</i>	{ To the hand to which they were dressed when halted.
	<i>Halt</i>	{ To the hand to which they were dressed when march- ing.

When the squadron is halted, *dressing* is generally ordered to the right.

When the entire squadron moves in line, or wheels, *dressing* is to the standard in the centre.

Dressing and its correction are always to be understood as progressive operations. The first, second, and third files, next the fixed flank, being first truly placed, the others then rapidly and successively conform to them, under the controul of the officer on that flank, who knows the direction the whole should stand in.

In

In dressing, the horses must stand straight to the front, and the mens' bodies must be square, each just casting his eye along his next man's face, but without turning his head, except in dressing after a halt, when a small turn of the head is allowed.

When the word *DRESS* is given only, whether in line or column, it means to the hand to which the troops are then looking; but when eyes are at the same time to be turned to a new point, in order to dress, it should be so expressed by the addition of *RIGHT*, *CENTRE*, or *LEFT*. Whenever the word *halt, dress*, is given by an officer to his division, it always implies that the men are looking, or are to look to such officer, who is then himself on the pivot flank of his division.

Every dresser of a body in a given line, must in his own person be placed on that line, while he is directing such operation.

Marching in front.

The squadron being supposed halted, and dressed to a flank, the leader must take care that he is exactly placed before the standard, and square with respect to the front of the squadron (or general line.) In this position, from habit, and with a glance of the eye, he determines the perpendicular direction which he is to follow, and cannot fail to remark two or more objects on the ground, which are in the line of this direction.

The

The word THE SQUADRON WILL ADVANCE, being given as a caution—at the word MARCH each man casts his eyes to the standard, puts his horse in motion, and dresses with the greatest exactness to the standard, the rear rank doing the same by the non-commissioned officer covering it.

The attention of the standard-bearer is to keep a horse's length from the leader; to follow him exactly and scrupulously.

The attention of the rest of the squadron is invariably fixt on the centre; that of the front rank on the standard, and that of the rear on the non-commissioned officer covering it, who gives the distance of ranks as ordered.

The distance of files is taken and preserved from the centre. Each man and horse must be placed perfectly square to the front, otherwise the squadron can never move justly; neither can the ranks be properly dressed, nor the true distance of files preserved.

As the great business of every leader of a squadron is to carry it forward in its exact perpendicular direction, it requires his whole attention. The flank officers and ferrefiles must take care that the squadron is dressed, and the standard bearer, that it is up to its leader, who must not be looking back to give such directions, otherwise he will undoubtedly swerve, and not conduct it with that steadiness, which is so essential, especially in

H

relative

relative movements, and which depend entirely upon himself.

If the Squadron marches in parade *order*, the line of officers dress by the standard, the coverers take the places of their respective officers, and the rest of the Squadron move as before directed.

If a small alteration is to be made in the direction of the Squadron, the leader gradually circles into such new direction, with which the Squadron complies by advancing one flank, and retaining the other, till the change is effected and a straight line resumed; and this will require the attention of the flank officers.

When the word HALT is given, the whole halt by the centre. The word DRESS instantaneously follows, and the files on each side of the standard diligently conforming to the general direction give the line to the rest of the Squadron, who immediately, if necessary, correct the distance of files.

If the Squadron is to remain any time halted, at the word EYES RIGHT the whole look to the right, and the commanding officer from the right, taking his object of dressing beyond the left, rectifies any small internal deviation, which may then exist.

If one movement is to succeed another immediately, the Squadron may remain looking to the centre.

Wheeling.

Wheeling.

Wheeling is one of the most essential and important operations of the squadron, and necessary in most movements.

When the entire squadron is to wheel, a CAUTION is given, and to which hand. At the word MARCH, the squadron dresses to the centre, the leader fixes his eye, and makes his circle on the standing flank man; the standard follows him exactly, and the squadron wheels with the same uniform front, at such a pace as is requisite to keep every where dressed with the standard. The rear rank and ferrefiles incline a little outwards at the same time that they wheel, so as always to cover their file leaders.

The standard (which caution must also be observed by the leader) must take care never to oblige the wheeling man to exceed a moderate gallop, otherwise the rear rank which has still more ground to go over, cannot keep up, the squadron will wheel loose and in disorder, and be longer in dressing than if it had come about at a slower pace, but close and connected.

The flanks must always conform to the centre, in case the leader does not take his ground as exactly as he ought; at any rate the standard is the guide for the pace, and to preserve the distance of files from.

The leader must take care to time his words HALT, DRESS, the instant before the wheel is completed, otherwise an over-wheel, or reining back will be the consequence. The whole halt and dress by the centre till otherwise ordered.

The squadron breaks into column of any of the divisions into which it is told off, by each of those divisions wheeling up the quarter circle. If the body is in motion at the time, the wheels of the divisions will begin at the word WHEEL, if halted, they are begun at the word MARCH.

In all division wheelings, the whole look to the wheeling hand. In all wheelings whatever, the rear rank must rein back at the standing flank, and incline towards the wheeling hand in order to cover.

At the word HALT, DRESS, given when the wheel is completed, the whole turn eyes, and dress to the standing flank, and remain so till a new direction is given, which will be EYES RIGHT or (LEFT) to the pivot flank, when necessary.

Wheelings of the squadron or its parts from the *halt*, are made on a flank, except those of ranks by threes, which are made on the centre man of each.

The distances of divisions in column are taken and preserved from front rank to front rank.

When

When the squadron is to be formed by the wheeling up of its divisions, there must be no false intervals, and the rear ranks must rein back and incline so as not to interrupt the front ranks coming up together. In division wheelings, the whole keep closed lightly towards the hand they wheel to, but must by all means avoid pressing the pivot man off his ground. The outward flank man looks to his rank, and of course regulates the pace at which the wheel is made; he must not press in on his rank, nor turn his horse's head towards the standing flank; all the horses heads must be kept rather outwards (for an attempt to bend them inwards would certainly occasion a crowding on the standing flank) and the croups lightly closed inwards with the flat of the leg. The pivot man of the wheel turns his horse on his fore feet, keeps his ground, and comes gradually round with his rank.

Filing.

Filing is an operation of the squadron of use in broken or embarrassed ground, which will not allow of movements on a greater front. It is a situation in which horses move free and without confinement, but in which the squadron or its parts lengthen out and take up much more ground than what they stand on in line, and is therefore to be had recourse to only from absolute necessity.

All horses heads are to be turned instantly at the command to *file*, ready to move off without loss of distance. About a yard from croup to head is the proper distance in file; and all alterations of pace must be taken up as nearly as possible at the same time by the whole file, in order to avoid either crowding or dropping behind; one or probably both of which (in different parts of the squadron) must be the case, whenever the horses are not all in one even pace.

The file leaders preserve such distances as they ought from which ever hand they are to dress to, and the followers of each file are only attentive to cover, and be regulated by their proper file leaders. In file, the rear rank dresses by, and is regulated by its front rank. In forming each man must come up in file to his place, and by no means move up to his leader, till that leader has formed to whichever hand is ordered. The whole must follow the exact track of the first leader, and come up one by one to their respective places in squadron.—Filings that may be required from the squadron, are—From either or both flanks to the front, flank or rear—From the centre of the squadron to the front, or to a flank—Single men by ranks, or by front and rear rank men alternately from either flank of the squadron.

In the filings of the squadron, the ferrefiles take their place in the rear of the files, unless the ground will allow them to remain on the flank of the rear rank; but their general and proper position is in the rear of
the

the files, because filing is in general an operation of necessity, which the nature of the ground requires.

In all formations from file, the leaders of ranks instantly cover each other, take the ordered front, and halt. The file forms to the *front*, by moving up, and closing to its leaders. The file forms to the *rear*, by doubling round its leaders, who have themselves turned and faced. The file forms to its *proper* flank, by turning and closing in to its leaders. The file forms to its *reverse* flank, by passing, turning and successively closing to its leaders. In formations from file, the whole, till otherwise ordered, dress to the hand to which the squadron or division forms.

Inclining.

At the order to INCLINE, each man makes a half face, on his horse's fore feet, to the ordered flank, by which means every one will appear to be half a head behind his flank leader, the whole looking to the hand to which they are to incline.

The leading officer on the flank, with a glance of his eye ascertaining his points, marches steadily upon them, at whatever pace is ordered. Every other man in the

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squadron

squadron moves in so many parallel lines, with respect to him, and preserves the same uniformity of front and files, as when he first turned his horse's head.

Great care is to be taken, that the whole move at the same pace : for if the following flank is too forward, the centre will be crowded ; if it is too backward, the squadron will loosen, and be too much in file.

The former front of the squadron, and distance of files must be strictly preserved during the whole operation ; so that whenever the word *FRONT* is given, the squadron (by each man at the same instant turning his horse) should be formed in a direction perfectly parallel to its former front, and ready to dress and move on by the standard.

The rear rank of course conform to, and are regulated by their file leaders. The distance of files at six inches (which it is to be remembered is the essential and permanent distance in all movements, unless otherwise ordered) allows the squadron to incline in perfect order, whilst its new direction does not pass an angle of 34° with respect to its former one, and at this angle it will always be understood to incline, unless it should be necessary to gain as much, or more, ground to the flank as to the front ; in that case, the squadron must either wheel up, and march upon the flank point, or it will fall more or less into file, according to the degree of obliquity required, by moving each horse retired, half neck, or head to boot, &c.

As

As this is generally intended for a brisk movement of the squadron, either at a trot or gallop, no horse is to cross his legs or passage in inclining, but each is to move in a straight line.

Pace.

The *Walk*, *Trot* and *Gallop* are the three natural paces; and of each of these there are different degrees of quickness; but whichever of them the squadron is conducted at, the slowest moving horse at that pace must be attended to, otherwise different kinds of motions will exist at the same time in the squadron, and tend to disunite it.

Though single horses, or small bodies, may instantaneously change from one pace to another, yet a squadron, or a number of bodies, will move with more ease and uniformity, when such transitions are made gradually through the different paces, as from a *walk* to a *slow trot*, *quick trot*, *slow gallop*, *quick gallop*, and vice versa each of these by its separate word of command, which may follow as quickly as is found necessary.

All alterations of pace must be made as much as possible at the same instant, by each separate body that composes a line or column.

Though

Though in slow movements of the line or squadron, and on a march, the *walk* is the common pace used, yet in general all changes of position and manœuvres should be made at the *trot* or *gallop* according to circumstances, beginning gently to avoid hurry, and ending gently to avoid confusion in forming. The intermediate times of such movement may be conducted with rapidity, and much depends on the eye of the officer, and well timing the words of command.

Great bodies, consistently with perfect order, cannot move with the same degree of rapidity as smaller ones, and therefore an allowance proportionable to their extent must be made in conducting them, whether in line or column, and this only the eye, practice and attention, can determine.

Of the Charge.

The great force of Cavalry is more in the offensive than the defensive, therefore the attack is its principal object.

All the different movements of the squadron should tend to place it in the most advantageous situation to attack the enemy. The Charge is that attack made with the greatest velocity and regularity possible, to
break

break the order of the opposite enemy, which will always ensure his defeat.

When the squadron is to charge, the leader gives the words MARCH, TROT, GALLOP, CHARGE, HALT, and FORM.

It depends on the leading officer to conduct them at such a pace as that the flanks and rear rank may always keep up. Every alteration of pace must be made at the same instant by the whole squadron.

Whatever distance the squadron has to go over, it may move at a brisk trot till within two hundred and fifty yards of the enemy, and then gallop. The word CHARGE is given when within eighty yards, and the gallop increased as much as the body can bear in good order. Any attempt to close the files at the instant of the charge would only increase the intervals in a line, and tend to impede the free movement of each horse, who at no time whatever requires more independence than when galloping at his utmost exertion; and every rub to right or left tends to diminish that effort in some degree.

At the instant of the shock the body must be well back; the horse not restrained by the bit, but determined forward by the spur; rising in the stirrups, and pointing the sword will always occasion a shake in the squadron; it will naturally be done when necessary, but should not be ordered.

It

It is in the uniform velocity of the squadron that its effect consists ; the spur, as much as the sword, tends to overset an opposite enemy ; when the one has nearly accomplished this end, the other may complete it.

In every part of the charge and its quick movement, the standard must be very exact in following the leading officer, and the men particularly attentive in keeping up to, and dressing to their standard. They will have their horses well in hand, and perfectly square to the front, their heads well up, which will keep them under command. Men must remain firm in their saddles ; an unsteady man will make a horse so ; one such will interfere with the movement and effect of a whole squadron.

When the flock of the squadron has broken the order of the opposite enemy, part may be ordered to pursue and keep up the advantage ; but its great object is instantly to form, and renew its efforts in a body, either to the front, or by wheeling to take other bodies in flank.

If the squadron fails in its attack, and is itself put in disorder or confusion, it must retire as well as it can, either to make way for those that support it, under whose protection it is to rally ; or as is more likely to be the case with a squadron of Yeomanry, if singly in the field, to retire to such a distance as may be most convenient to form and advance again.

A squa-

A squadron should never be so much hurried, as to bring up the horses blown to the charge.

In the real charge where resistance is met with, the halt will be gradual; but in exercise, to shew the readiness of man and horse, it is frequently made from the gallop, by each man raising his bridle hand, closing his legs to his horse's sides, inclining his body well back, and stopping his horse on his haunches.

When after the charge, part of the squadron disperse to pursue, they should open out and cover the front and intervals. When they return and form, each man should observe his point, come round by his proper flank, and by the rear of his respective rank, and on no account cross the front of the squadron. This direction chiefly respects the squadron at exercise.

In the walk, the sword is to be carried at *ease* with the back of the blade resting on the right shoulder. In the trot and gallop the right hand must be steadied on the thigh, the point of the sword a very little inclining forward--and in the charge, the hand is lifted, and the sword carried rather forwards and crossways across the head, with the edge outwards.

The squadron must be well dressed before it moves, horses perfectly straight, and carried on so during the whole attack; files on no account crouding; paces even and determined; horses well in hand, and perfect steadiness and attention shewn by every individual.

In

In order to have the squadron in perfect order before it begins to move, the commanding officer will give a caution that THE SQUADRON WILL PREPARE TO CHARGE, between which and the word MARCH, sufficient time will be allowed for the men to get their bridle reins well in hand, and to correct all false intervals and dressings, which will be done by the commanding officer on the right, or which ever flank they are halted to.

Commands.

All commands must be given by officers, firmly, loudly, and explicitly, every officer therefore must be accustomed to give such commands, even to the smallest bodies, in the full extent of his voice; by such bodies he must not only be heard, but by the leaders of others who are dependent on his motions. The justness of execution, and the confidence of the soldier can only be in proportion to the firm, decided, and proper manner in which every officer of every rank, gives his orders. An officer who cannot thoroughly discipline and exercise the body entrusted to his command, is not fit in time of service to lead it against an enemy; he cannot be cool and collected in the time of danger; he cannot take the advantage of favourable circumstances, from an inability to direct others; the fate of many may depend on his well or ill acquitting himself of his duty. It is not sufficient to advance with
personal

personal bravery, it is requisite to have that degree of intelligence which should distinguish every officer according to his station; nor can troops ever act with spirit and animation, without a perfect reliance on the capacity of those who conduct them.

Commands of CAUTION, being such as are preparatory to a movement, should be sufficiently full and explanatory. Commands of execution should be short, and avoiding unessential words.

The exercising officer gives all general commands, which are also shortly and quickly repeated by the officer leading the squadron, especially such as are executory, as MARCH, HALT, DRESS, &c. It is only when the squadron is broken into parts, that the division officers give commands, and those chiefly executory, as *Halt, Dress, &c.* also the several words necessary for the wheels made in column of march by each division; the several words necessary when divisions come up successively from open or close column, into line or column, whether conducted by front or flank movements, and in general whenever their divisions are moving as distinct, though dependent bodies. But the wheeling from column into general line, or from line into general column, is made at the word MARCH, repeated by the leading officer of the squadron; the whole column also is put in motion, and halted by word from the commanding officer, repeated by the leader.

It

It is utterly impossible to ascertain the words of command to be given in all cases; where such are not pointed out, they must depend on the circumstances of the situation, and be short, clear, and expressive of what is to be done.

When *rank* makes any part of a word of command (as in *ranks by threes*, &c.) it means that each rank should separately perform the same thing; but when the command by *squadron*, *half squadron*, *division*, or *sub-division* is given, it implies always that the rear rank which is at close order, should accompany and cover the front rank in all wheelings, inclinings, and movements of the body.

As soon as the commanding officer has announced the orders, and particularly the words of execution, as MARCH, FORM, HALT, &c. the repetition of them by every other individual concerned, must not be strictly successive, but as much as can be in a volley, to beget that precision of movement, which in manœuvre is indispensable; and the larger the body, the more essentially does this circumstance operate.

In the quick movements and manœuvres of cavalry, there is not time for the full and formal words of command. On such occasions they must be rapidly given, much abridged, and all expletives omitted; instead of Ranks by threes, to the right about wheel, say *Threes about*. Ranks by threes, to the left wheel—*Threes left wheel*. Division to the right incline,—*Right incline*, &c. &c. which

which from the nature of the movements, and to troops properly cautioned, are sufficiently intelligible.

The above remarks, my Lord, are almost literally extracted from General Dundas, being in fact, an abridgement of the first 13 sections of his copious and scientific work, contracted for the use of a single squadron, and in some parts a little simplified, in order to adapt them more particularly to the use of the Volunteer Cavalry; to whom, it should be a leading principle with all officers who have the honour to command them, to render every instruction as little burthensome as possible; the time they give up to the service of their country, is of itself so great a sacrifice, that nothing more which can possibly be done without, should be demanded of them. I shall now, my Lord, close this letter with a few observations on the different modes of skirmishing, &c. and some short instructions for the exercise of the sabre; being all that is absolutely necessary for a corps of Yeomanry; reserving for my next and concluding letter on this subject, a selection of a few of the most useful and simple methods of forming and reducing columns; which being founded on the principles here laid down, will be easily attained by those who are masters of what I have hitherto written.

Dismounting.

In order to dismount in the streets of a town, which is very necessary for a body of Yeomanry, they must be practised to dismount with the ranks at close order; in which case on the word *prepare to dismount* the odd files of the front rank come forward, whilst the even files of the rear rein back—the same files moving into their places again as soon as dismounted—mounting again in the same manner.

Salute.

It is now customary instead of receiving a general on the right flank, for him to come in front of the centre, and receive a general salute; for which purpose, instead of the squadrons drawing swords separately by word from their respective commanding officers, the whole draw at once by one word from the major; and the officers salute together, looking to the centre and taking time from the commanding officer; the trumpets all founding at the same time; after which the general goes to the right flank, and proceeds through the ranks as before to inspect the men, his attention not being taken up with returning the salutes of the officers as formerly.

Priming

Priming and loading.

If it is meant to fire with powder, the exercising officer will give the word *with cartridge prime and load*, either previous to the preparation for charging, or at such other time as he may think most proper. In order to keep the troops to a regular method of going through the motions, it will be useful now and then to practise the manual exercise for the pistol from Hinde's Discipline, drawing and returning swords as there mentioned between the firings and facings; but as it is not a part of the regular business of a field day, I shall not swell my letter by inserting it here.

Skirmishing.

I have said in my former letter where the instructions were intended for a single troop, that for the sake of perfecting all the body in skirmishing, the quarter ranks should take that service in turns, but supposing that all are perfect, and that the squadron is composed of two troops, I think it will have a better effect to skirmish in the following manner—As soon as the bugle blows for the skirmishers to move out,* the 1st and 16th (or flank) threes having returned swords, gallop out and spread themselves so as to cover the fronts of their respective troops, skirmishing as before directed by al-

* If there is a corps de reserve the skirmishing will be performed by them.

ternate ranks; whilst the 2d and 15th keeping their swords drawn, move forwards in a brisk trot to support the flanks of the skirmishers, regulating their pace so as to keep always about half way between the skirmishers and main body; and rather out-flanking them, which will be done by the centre man of the supporting division (which does not open and spread, but keeps compact both in rank and file) covering the flank skirmisher; by which means they will prevent the enemy from cutting off the communication between the skirmishers and main body—As the skirmishers advance they will do the same; and in retreating they will go about by ranks on their centres, fronting again as often as necessary to preserve the proper distance.

The skirmishers may be commanded by a serjeant, whilst a commissioned officer (if two troops, or the quarter-master if a single troop is in the field) will command the supporters, giving the following words when necessary—*Supporters, forwards—March. Halt. Supporters about; forwards. Front, halt.* The officer will keep a little in front of the interval between the supporting divisions, and in rear of the centre of the skirmishers, by keeping an eye on whom, he will regulate the motions of the supporters. When the squadron is advancing in column of fours by filing from the centre, the 1st and 16th threes may skirmish on their respective flanks in the following manner: the 1st filing by single files from its right, and the 16th from its left to the front, are thus formed in a single file, consisting of a front and rear rank man alternately on the flank
of

of the column, when the serjeant commanding the 1st, orders his front rank men to *make—ready*. *To the right—present, Fire*.—As soon as they have fired, they stand fast and load as speedily as possible; and the serjeant orders *Rear rank—forward*, on which they go round the inside of their respective front rank men into the interval between them and the next front rank man, by which time the front rank having nearly loaded, he orders, *Rear rank make—ready*, and as soon as they are quite loaded, *To the right—present, Fire*; then *Front rank—forward*; and so on alternately, till the bugle calls them in. The serjeant of the 16th making no other difference in his words than ordering his men *To the left—present*; but if the flankers are to skirmish at any distance from the column, the serjeants may then order them to face to the right and left outwards, fronting them again to move forwards, thus facing and fronting alternately as necessary, and the supporting divisions may be ordered out to sustain them; taking ground to the right or left by ranks of threes, in order to advance or retreat in proportion to the skirmishers column. And if a whole regiment of three squadrons is in the field, and advancing either in one column or three, the centre squadron may skirmish and support to the front, whilst the flank squadrons send out flankers. In regard to the command of skirmishing and supporting divisions, it must be entirely left to the discretion of the exercising officer, as it will depend so much on the number of officers in the field. I have said in the former instructions, that as soon as the squadron have drawn swords, the bugle horn is to call in the skir-

mishers, it should have been as soon as necessary after the swords are drawn, according to the length of distance from the supposed enemy.

Charging.

During the charge the flanks must be particularly careful not to press before the centre, as it will be better to have a little to move forward, rather than to rein back in order to dress when halted; and this must be attended to by the flank officers.

Retreating.

When the threes go about in order to retreat, it should be on their own centres according to the new mode of telling off: the right man reining back, the centre going about on his own ground, and the left wheeling about forwards; by which means every three (and of course the whole line) turns on its own ground, without interfering with any other, which is more particularly necessary when the movement is to be a partial one, and not extending to the whole line. The word THREES ABOUT will therefore in future always be understood to mean on their centres.

Dispersing.

Dispersing.

It is strictly to be observed in dispersing, (as well as in all kinds of skirmishing) that the front and rear rank men of a file are invariably to keep together and guard one another; taking especial care not to be both unloaded at a time; the one always advancing in front of, and covering the other whilst he loads. The dispersion is in the former instructions made a separate movement, because the Horse Evolutions (properly so called) being intended only as a drill system for a squadron or troop, it is there necessary to teach every movement separately and independently of all others; but in real practice the line will in general disperse immediately after a charge by which the enemy are supposed to be broken, and the squadrons ordered to disperse in pursuit of the run-aways.

These are all the remarks which strike me as necessary, to elucidate or improve the former instructions; and I shall now proceed to those movements which come more immediately under the head of manœuvres; first only premising, that I earnestly advise the use of the *exercise of the sword*, according to the manner prescribed in the Rules and Regulations for the Sword Exercise of the Cavalry, by Major Le Marchant, and I shall take the liberty of using Captain Neville's own words, in the following extract from his very ingenious little treatise on the Discipline of Light Cavalry, con-

cerning the utility of the exercise of the sword. “ The
 “ sword being indisputably the most formidable and
 “ essentially useful weapon of cavalry, no pains or
 “ attention should be spared in training or perfecting
 “ the troops in the proper and most offensive use of
 “ it, in preference to all other arms. The carbine,
 “ though of infinitely less importance, is in general
 “ considered with much more attention, and a very
 “ large portion of time taken up in learning its use,
 “ which might be much more advantageously employed
 “ in exercising with the sword on horse-back. Indeed
 “ carbine exercise and foot parade seem to have ac-
 “ quired too great an ascendancy in the cavalry, and
 “ appear to be the leading features in the discipline
 “ of some corps.” I will go further than Capt. Neville
 and say, that I earnestly wish to see the carbine entirely
 discarded, and the light dragoon armed only with
 sword and pistol; but more particularly volunteer
 cavalry, who have no time to spare even to look at a
 carbine; every moment they can attend in the field
 being hardly sufficient to acquire the use of the above
 arms, and the proper management of the horse. Every
 thing of parade ought to be banished from a corps of
 Yeomanry. A British yeoman should pique himself
 on the essential service of standing forth, for the sole
 purpose of preserving the constitution of his country,
 and not for the amusement of playing at soldiery. “ In
 “ all riding lessons when the troops are tolerably well
 “ on horseback, they should ride with drawn swords,
 “ properly carried and sometimes also sloped. In ma-
 “ nœuvre, regiments should in general do every thing
 “ with

“ with drawn swords, in order that they may be
 “ habituated to their weight and use.”

If I were to attempt to lay down at full length all the necessary instructions for the *exercise of the sword*, I must borrow still more from Major Le Marchant, than I have already done (and must yet do) from Major General Dundas; little less than the whole of the book would suffice—and indeed, my Lord, I am so tired of appearing in borrowed feathers, that though in stealing from General Dundas I rob the *eagle* of his plumage, I feel myself happy in returning for a moment even to the *daw-like* insignificance of my own person—I shall therefore content myself with referring to the *Rules and Regulations for the Sword Exercise of the Cavalry*, for the whole of the instructions, adding only a few remarks on the application of the most requisite parts to the service of the Volunteer corps.

Remarks on the Sword Exercise.

It must be recollected that the actual service of the yeomanry, will (if ever) be most probably exerted against casual and temporary mobs of foot people—those passages, therefore, which relate to the infantry part of the system, will be most necessary to be put in practice, at the same time that the whole of the *cuts and guards* should be perfectly acquired, in order to attain the proper suppleness of the wrist, and the correct management of the sabre. In drawing the sword,
 it

it will be particularly requisite to observe the fastening of the knot over the wrist, because a man on foot in a croud, and who is most probably either quite unarmed, or armed only with a bludgeon, will use his utmost endeavours to wrest the sword out of his antagonist's hand. The whole of the cuts will be found of use, both on horseback and on foot, as well against infantry as cavalry—And of the guards, the *guard* (properly so called) and the *St. George* will defend against cavalry on horseback, and against rioters (who generally aim at the head with sticks, &c.) when dismounted. The *bridle*, and *sword arm protect*, will be of most use when mounted against cavalry, but may be advantageously used in a mob on foot. The *thigh protect* will be only used on horseback, but equally as well against foot as horsemen—as will the *near and off side horse-protect*.—The *right and left protect* will be found useful at all times and in almost all situations. The application of *point to front* will apply against cavalry on horseback, and infantry on foot; and the *point to left*, followed by *rear parry* and *cut 4*, and the *point to right*, followed by *rear parry* and *cut 3*, will be employed on horseback against infantry.

When the cuts and guards are perfectly acquired, the sword exercise should be practised in battalion by word of command, and in six divisions of movements, practising and repeating only one division at a time till perfect in it; when perfect in first and second, then both in one day—and so on, adding one division at a time till the whole can be done in regular succession

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at once. The same afterwards on horseback in line, (the foot-drill only to be continued till the volunteers have acquired sufficient command of the sword, to prevent all possibility of danger to the horse.) Then follows the *sword drill moving in circle*—The *six divisions of movements performed in speed*—The *running at the ring*—*Application of the edge*. When all these are acquired perfectly, if time will allow, they will proceed to *attack and defence in line*, and afterwards in speed—Paying particular attention to THE METHOD OF INSTRUCTION IN CLASSES—for all which refer to the RULES and REGULATIONS by Major Le Marchant.

I shall now conclude my observations on the exercise of the sword, with remarking, that Yeomanry corps have so much less time to practise than the regulars, that for a considerable time, they must content themselves on field days with performing the *six divisions in line*, afterwards adding progressively the *divisions in speed*, and perhaps the *attack and defence in line*; but it is hardly to be expected, that with the little practice of Volunteers, they can for a long time, be equal to the execution of the attack and defence in speed, with that precision with which it should always be executed, if at all. The divisions for sword exercise, and attack and defence *in speed*, will be formed from the corps de reserve (if any) or from the flank threes of squadrons, both of which must be the best riders and most skilful swordsmen appointed for skirmishing, &c.

Many officers are fond of preferring the straight
to

to the scymitar blade, because having originally learned to fence with the small sword, they find the straight blade more familiar, and indeed in the mere application of the point in a thrust, it certainly has the superiority; but this cannot weigh a moment with those who recollect that all military motions are (or should be) founded on mathematical principles; and that in the movements of the sabre, the shoulder is the centre of a circle of which the arm is the radius, and the scymitar a segment of its circumference, whilst the straight sword is only a tangent; and it is of infinite consequence to the swordsman's safety to remember, that in recovering his guard after making an assault, the point of the former is instantly disengaged by a simple circular motion of the arm (or radius) whilst the latter requires a compound one to effect the same purpose.

The volunteers should accustom themselves to aim their cuts low, on account of acting against adversaries below their own level.

We have now, my Lord, given our brother volunteer's charger, what the French riding masters call *une assez longue reprise*; we will therefore dismiss him for the present.—

“ To morrow to fresh fields, and pastures new.”

I have the honour to remain, &c.

Elmhurst, Jan. 1st, 1797.

F. P. ELIOT.

LETTER

LETTER VI.

CONTAINING

A SELECTION OF MANŒUVRES

FOR THE USE OF

* VOLUNTEER CAVALRY,

Founded on the Principles of the New Instructions and Regulations.

Entendre bien la cavalerie, c'est savoir la mener, & la faire combattre.

RICHELET.

No man can be said to understand the operations of cavalry, who does not know how to avail himself of the most favourable circumstances in leading it into action.

My Lord,

BEFORE I proceed to the immediate direction for the manœuvres above-mentioned, allow me to lay down a few of General Dundas's maxims for the general movements of all bodies whatever, whether in line, regiment, or single squadron; the same principles applying equally to the one as to the other.

Movements.

Movements.

The movements of all great bodies are made either in line or column. In line they are regulated by a named squadron; in column they are directed by its head division, and the commander of the whole is near the regulating body. There are very few cases in which the centre ought to regulate, although the direct march of the line appears to be the easiest conducted by the centre. If an enemy is to be turned, and an attack made, it is by the flank that such movements are led. If the line is thrown backward or forward, it is generally on a flank point (of appui.) If the line breaks into column, it is the head or leading flank of that column which conducts, and whose writhings and turnings are followed by every other part of the body, and such head becomes again a flank whenever the line is formed. It is seldom that an attack is formed from the centre, and a movement seldom need be. The commander will therefore be on which ever flank directs the operations of the line, and by which he proposes to make the attack, or to counteract the attempts of the enemy.

Movements must be divided into distinct parts; and each executed by separate and explanatory words of command.

Alterations of position, in considerable bodies, must begin from a previous HALT, however short; except giving a new direction to the heads of columns, or increasing

creasing or diminishing their front, which may be done while in motion. As the principle of moving, forming, and dressing, upon given and determined points is just, quick changes of position of a considerable body formed in line, attempted while on the move, and not proceeding from a previous halt (however short) will be false and defective; the effects of which though not so apparent in a single squadron, or regiment, would be very obvious in a line or column of any extent.

A pause therefore between every change of situation, so essentially necessary to the movements of great bodies, should seldom be omitted in those of small ones; squareness of dressing, the exact perpendiculars of march, and the correct relative position of the whole, are thereby ascertained. Such alterations of situation made from the halt, may when necessary, succeed each other instantly and quickly; no time need be taken up in scrupulous dressing, but every one may be immediately apprized of the following movement, which circumstances require.

If officers are observing of and attentive to their true distances of divisions, and to the covering of their pivot flanks, the most considerable column of cavalry ought to be able in changing its position, to ENTER on a given alignment at a brisk TROT—to HALT, to WHEEL INTO LINE, to ADVANCE, and to CHARGE, without more than a momentary pause between each operation

operation of the halt, wheel, and advance, and without being under any necessity of dressing, correcting distances, or alteration whatever; and unless squadrons are equal to, and can be depended on for such operation, no critical or advantageous measure when close to an enemy can be attempted; and the great efforts that cavalry ought to make, from the celerity and justness of its movements, will be lost.

An officer must not only know the post which he should occupy in all changes of situation, the commands which he should give, and the general intention of the required movement; but he should also be master of the principles on which each is made, to judge when faults are committed in order to avoid them himself, and to instruct others. These principles are in themselves so simple, that moderate reflexion, habit, and attention, will soon shew them to the eye, and fix them in his mind.

Although the nature of routes and of roads, may sometimes limit common marches to be made on a very small front; yet flank marches near an enemy, or changes of position in presence of an enemy, cannot be effected with precision, firmness, or certainty, on a less front than ranks by threes, or indeed, when possible on a division (or a sub-division if the squadron is strong, as from 48 to 60 files) for then the steadiness and correctness of pivot officers may ensure the instant—HALT, WHEEL UP INTO LINE, and ADVANCE upon the enemy.
And

And it will seldom happen, that changes of position made in order to attack to the greater advantage will be required, but in situations that allow such changes to be made by a flank movement, and without lengthening out the line during the transition from one point to another.

Line of March and Formation.

Every leader of a body, moving on any front whatever, who means to conduct it in a straight line, must march upon two points, which he invariably preserves so as to cover each other; if such points are not ascertained for him, he must instantly determine them for himself, and if no strong or marked objects present themselves in his direction, he can never fail by casting his eyes along the ground, to find such small ones as will answer his purpose, and these from time to time he renews as he approaches them. To march straight on one object only with certainty and without wavering, is not to be depended on.

To march or form in the *alignement*, is to make troops march or form in any part of the straight line which joins two given points, or is prolonged beyond them.

As a single squadron of Yeomanry will not in general have an adjutant in the field, the quarter-master may be usefully employed (or one of the supernumerary

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officers

officers if any) in ascertaining the points necessary for its movements and formations; in this he may be assisted by the serjeants, who should be properly trained to take up quickly such line as he shall give them, and for this purpose they are only to be sent out successively, and as their aid is wanted, nor are they to make any bustle or unnecessary parade; and when the operation for which they were sent out is accomplished, they will immediately return behind their proper flank.

The necessity of officers and non-commissioned officers being well trained to prolong lines, take up distances, and give those aids which are so essential in the formations and movements of all considerable bodies, is evident and much to be attended to. Persons active, intelligent, and well mounted, can alone assist the operations of cavalry, nor are camp colours, or any such improper and superfluous modes necessary, or in general to be used.

The markers of alignment in column, or of formations in line, are not to quit their ground after the halt of either, till all necessary dressing is accomplished, and that they are directed so to do; they serve not only as points of movement, but as points of correction.

Breaking and forming Squadrons.

A squadron formed in line with the files at six inches from boot-top to boot-top, occupies in front nearly (or quite) as many yards as files, or about thirty-four inches for each horse.

When the squadron moves from a flank, each rank in *single file* (the rear supernumeraries still on the flank) it then occupies nearly three times the ground it before stood on, supposing sufficient distance from horse to horse for facility of movement.

When the squadron has wheeled and extended into *ranks by twos* (the rear supernumeraries still on the flanks) it then occupies nearly two thirds more ground than it before stood on.

When the squadron has wheeled *ranks by threes* to a flank, with an officer in front, another in rear, and the standard between the ranks, the threes within about two feet from croup to head; the squadron has thus extended about one sixth more than it did before.

When the squadron has wheeled to a flank by *half squadrons*, by *divisions*, or by *sub-divisions* if they consist of more than six files, it then occupies less ground than it before stood on, by the front of the column, whatever it is.

Whenever the squadron is broken into divisions, or parts, for the purpose of movement, each separate body has a leader, on whom the eye and attention of each man is fixed. In column such leader will be on the pivot flank of his division, in all situations of manœuvre. These leaders cover each other in the given direction in which the column is to move; they are not themselves to be covered by any one, and are answerable for true distances. Should any such leader not be appointed, or be wanting to a division, his place is to remain vacant, and not be occupied by flank files of men, for such flank files of men are invariably to remain covering each other.

When from the halt, the squadron by wheels to its flank, *breaks into open column*, the commanding officer gives the words HALF SQUADRONS, (DIVISIONS OR SUB-DIVISIONS) TO THE (RIGHT OR LEFT) WHEEL, MARCH, HALT, DRESS, by the standing flank, and then EYES (RIGHT OR LEFT) by the pivot flank, after which the whole is put in motion by the word MARCH.—Should the word EYES (RIGHT OR LEFT) be omitted, at any rate they must be directed to the pivot flank at the word MARCH.

When the squadron has wheeled to a flank by half squadrons.—*If to the right*, the officer on the right of the squadron immediately shifts to the left of his half squadron, to conduct the pivot of the leading-half squadron, and the officer who was on the left of the squadron wheels up and remains on the pivot of his
own

own half squadron. *If to the left*, then the officer on the left shifts to the right of his half squadron, and the right officer wheels up and remains on the right of his own half squadron.

When the squadron has wheeled to a flank by *divisions*.—*If to the right*, then the left officer is on the pivot of the rear division, and the right officer shifts to the pivot of the front division, and the serjeants on the right of the two centre divisions shift each to the left of his own division, as in Fig. 6. *If to the left*, then the right officer wheels up, and is on the pivot flank of the rear division, the serjeants on the right of the two centre divisions also wheel up, and the left officer shifts to the pivot of the leading division of the squadron.

When the squadron has wheeled to a flank by *sub-divisions*, then the two flank officers and their coverers, and the two centre serjeants and their coverers will each be on the pivot flank of a sub-division, as in Fig. 4.

In the wheelings of the squadron into *half squadrons*, *divisions*, or *sub divisions*, the standard and its coverer wheel up with the leading *half squadron*, or the second *division*, or the fourth *sub-division* from the flank wheeled to, so as to place themselves at the conclusion of the wheel, behind the second and third files from the pivot of each of the said bodies. And when these bodies wheel up to form squadron, the standard (and of course its coverer also) shifts briskly to its place in the centre, during the wheel.

When from the halt the squadron wheels to its flank, *ranks by threes (or by twos)* the commanding officer gives the words **THREES (or TWOS) RIGHT (or LEFT) WHEEL, MARCH, HALT, DRESS**, to the pivot hand, after which the whole is put in motion at the second word **MARCH**; the whole threes at the same instant, and increasing their distances while on the move; or the twos (who are standing at a half wheel) successively as soon as each is enabled so to do, and can get its marching distance.

When the squadron wheels to the right or left, by *ranks by threes*, the middle man of each three will turn on his horse's fore feet, and of the other two, one will rein back, and the other move forward to dress with him. A flank officer is at the head of the squadron, the other flank officer at the rear. The standard and its coverer turn each on their own ground, and move between the ranks. The supernumeraries of the rear rank will, if the ground requires it, fall in and follow the rear of the squadron, or otherwise turn singly and march on its flank, as in Fig. 7.

When the squadron wheels to a flank, by *ranks by twos*, the flank man of each two will half turn on his horse's fore feet, and the other man will half wheel up, so as to make a half face to the flank, and be in a situation to move off successively as it comes to their turn. A flank officer is at the head of the squadron, the other flank officer in the rear of it. The standard and its coverer turn each on his own ground, and move
between■

between the ranks; the ferrefiles, &c. are disposed of as in Fig. 7—the only difference between this column and that of *ranks by threes*, consisting in the extent of the front which is formed of two front rank, and two rear rank men, instead of three of each.

In the flank movements of *ranks by threes* or *by twos*, the files are as close up as they well can, without crouding; the whole dress to the pivot hand, and the pivot men of ranks are answerable for the covering and keeping up to those that precede them; and to this the officers and ferrefiles, who are disengaged from the ranks, must be attentive.

When for the purpose of manœuvre, the squadron breaks to the flank by *half squadrons* or *divisions*, the ferrefiles are close up behind each; when by *sub-divisions*, they are on the reverse flank (i. e. not the pivot flank.)

During all division wheelings on a fixed flank, the eyes of the men are directed to the wheeling hand. At the word *halt, dress*, they are immediately turned to the standing hand, and are from thence corrected.—The square wheel of the quarter circle is so essentially necessary to correct movements in column, and formations in line, that every help should be applied to ensure its justness, and points thrown out, exactly to ascertain it.

Halts of divisions from wheels, are made with eyes turned to the standing flank.

Commanding officers of squadrons remain on (but wide of) the pivot flanks, to observe and regulate the march, and instantaneously to form when ordered.

Commanding officers must take care that conducting officers of flanks or pivots shift nimbly to such points, at the proper instant.

If a squadron has marched to a flank in column of *half squadrons, divisions, or sub-divisions*, in such cases it occupies (intervals correctly preserved) exactly the ground requisite for its formation in line; which is at any instant made by halting, and wheeling up the quarter circle.

When from the halt of open column, the squadron is formed by the wheeling up of its divisions, the commanding officer gives the words **HALF SQUADRONS, (DIVISIONS, SUB-DIVISIONS, OR THREES) WHEEL INTO LINE**; on which the pivot leaders immediately place themselves on the reverse flank of such division, as by its wheel up brings them to their proper place in the squadron; the pivot officer of the rear division is alone an exception, being already at his post in squadron. At the word **MARCH**, the whole wheel up, and receive the words **HALT, DRESS**, (by the standing flank, and the line of pivots;) the standard, ferrefiles, and every one having resumed their place in squadron. Squadrons forming from *ranks by twos*, will, if more than one squadron is in the field, (in which case they will

will have extended at least one third more than their proper length, without leaving any intervals between squadrons) receive successively from their leaders, as their heads come to their ground, the words WHEEL INTO SQUADRON, HALT, DRESS, (to the hand formed to.)

In wheeling from column into line, it is on the *flank files of men*, and not on the *pivot leaders*, that the wheels are made; therefore on the word being given to WHEEL INTO LINE, those leaders quit the flanks, and are disposed of as above.

Open Column.

All columns are supposed formed from line, for the convenience of movement, and for the purpose of again extending into line. Every column of march, or manœuvre, must be formed by a regular succession of the divisions from one flank to the other of the squadron, (regiment or line) or of such of its parts as compose the column, for whatever is the relative position of a body in line, such ought it to be in column; and where several connected columns are formed, the same flanks of each should be in front; but whether rights or lefts will depend on circumstances.

The column is named that of *march*, or *route*, when applied to common marches, where the attention of men and officers is not so much kept on the stretch.

It

It is named the *column of manœuvre*, when being within reach of an enemy (or so supposed to be, for practice in the field) the greatest exactness is required, in order to its speedy formation at any instant into line, during its transition from one position to another.

Columns of march or manœuvre, will generally be composed of divisions, sub-divisions, or ranks by threes; for the purpose of movement they need not exceed twelve file in front, nor should they be under six, otherwise there will not be space to loosen the ranks, and the line will of course be lengthened out, as happens in the march of ranks by twos, or by files. From six to ten men in front, they are most advantageously composed for quick manœuvres.

Columns of march or manœuvre will be formed with the left in front, whenever it is probable that the formation of the line will be required to the right flank, and vice versa when required to the left.

The proper *pivot flank* in column is that which, when wheeled up to, preserves the divisions of the line in the natural order, and to their proper front; the other may be called the *reverse flank*.

In column, divisions cover and dress to the proper pivot flank, to the left when the right is in front, and to the right when the left is leading.

In all movements, formations and changes of position
of

of the column, *distances* and *dressings* are taken from the directing hand, viz. from the head of the column, or from the hand to which the formation is making, or to be made.

In movements in column, the *pivot officers* or *non-commissioned officers*, are answerable for covering, and for proper wheeling distances, and the eyes of the whole are turned to the pivot; such pivot leaders must attend to these two circumstances only, and by no means be looking at, or giving directions to their divisions; (that care must be left to the supernumerary officers, &c. who are either on the reverse flank, or in the rear) for if they themselves move steadily and truly, there is little doubt but their divisions will always keep up to them.

Officers who lead squadrons in line, guide pivots in column, or conduct the flanks of divisions successively into line, in changes of position, and indeed all officers who in their own persons determine the movement of any body, must recollect, that unless they themselves are steady, correct, and smooth in the path which they give, their several bodies cannot follow in firm or proper order, but will partake of every irregularity of such leader, who therefore must attend with unremitting correctness to his objects of distance, and leading.

The rear divisions of a column in march, always follow every turn and twist which the head makes; each successively changing its direction at whatever point the

the leading one may so have done. When at any unexpected moment a column is ordered to halt, the pivot leaders of each division must remain fixed where they are found, at the word HALT. If the march of the column is again to be resumed, the rear divisions will continue to follow the exact path traced out by the head; nor are any of the following divisions of a column ever to deviate from this rule, or endeavour of themselves to get into a straight line, when the general direction is a winding one, until an express order is given for that purpose, which can hardly ever happen till the head of the column is halted, with the determination to form the line in a straight direction, in which case, the correction of the pivots will begin from the head of the column.

The march in column through a thin wood, or in ground where impediments frequently change the direction of its head, will be best made by a front of subdivisions, or ranks by threes. The pivot files will preserve exact distances from each other, choose their own ground, and wind as the trees or other impediments permit, along a general direction. In such situation, at no time, (if possible to be avoided) should any of the pivot flank leaders, be obliged to double or quit the continued line of march; but the other files may be (when impediments are to be passed) much opened or loosened from those pivots, who in the mean time moving free, and preserving wheeling distances, are in a situation at every instant to halt and form in line, the others closing in to them.

Should

Should the march in a straight alignement be at any time interrupted by pools of water, or any other obstacle which is impassable, the march will be continued straight to that obstacle; it will then be marched round (and always if possible, by deviating from the *reverse* flank, so as to remain behind the line) and the same straight line will again on the other side be taken up by the pivots, at the point in it which a detached person has prepared. Allowance will be made when the line is to form, for the breadth of such obstacle, by the doubling of as many divisions as will fill up the vacancy (when it can be done) which is thereby occasioned in the line; nor must any small interruptions in the line, that can possibly be surmounted, ever make the pivots deviate from the straight line, when the intention of forming on the line is evident, and known to all.

A column in movement should, if possible, never occupy more ground than what it stands on in line; but when the formation into line must undoubtedly be to the front, then the divisions may be ordered to march closed up to half, quarter, or any other distance, and the formation will be made by prolonging the line, by deployment, by inclining up, or by half wheels and marching on the oblique lines, as circumstances require.

An open column of squadrons, or half squadrons, will generally from their extent of front, change the direction of their march by squared and quick wheels made on a flank; but the column of divisions, sub-divisions,

fions, ranks by threes, or by two's when obliged frequently to change its direction of march, may do it advantageously by the gradual and circling movement of the leading pivot, to which all others, as it comes to their turn successively, conform, taking care that at no instant whatever the ordered distances are changed or lost, and that eyes remain turned to such pivots.—Columns marching at half or quarter distance of their then front, must also make their necessary wheels on a moveable pivot, otherwise a stop must ensue, and the column open out.

In all wheels of a column, in movement to change direction, and made by divisions on a *fixed* flank, the outward file, whether officer or man, is the one wheeled upon; and the quickness of the wheels must be at least double to the rate of march, otherwise the column may be liable to open out, and the wheeling point would not be cleared in time for each successive division. In changes made on a *moveable* flank, the outward file of that flank is also the directing one.

Halts of divisions from wheels are made with eyes turned to the standing flank. But all halts from a march in front, are made with eyes turned to the point or points to which the troops while in march are looking. After which, no dressing or movement whatever is to be made, until a separate order directs it.

The whole column or line should always be in so
correct

correct a situation, as to halt instantly on the word. But should at any time the difficulties of ground have unavoidably opened out the column, or thrown divisions out of the line, in such case the halt of those divisions will be successive, as they regain their proper situations.

When squadrons, half squadrons, or divisions, separately move by a flank, to change position in column, or from line to place themselves in open or close column, or from close column to deploy into line, &c. it will always, when possible, be done by *ranks by threes*, and the greatest care be taken that at the instant the word HALT, FRONT, is given to each, the division may be exactly formed by the wheeling of its threes, without any necessity for a closing in of its rear.

Whenever divisions, or distinct bodies move in front, and arrive successively in line, the eyes of the whole are turned to the hand to which they are to form, and from which they preserve required distances. The leading officer must be on the inward flank of his division; he conducts it to its point of junction in line, and from thence dresses and corrects it on the person who is previously placed beyond him, and prolonging the general line. The outward flank of the last formed and halted body, is always considered as the point of junction (necessary intervals included) of the succeeding one. Thus the looking and lining of the ranks is always towards that point, and the flank of the line formed to; and the correction and dressing by the officer

is

is always made from that point towards the other flank. Therefore on all occasions of moving up, forming and dressing in line, by the men's lining themselves to one hand (inwards) and the officer's correcting to the other (outwards) the most perfect line may be obtained: this great principle is to be observed from the smallest body to the most considerable corps, and regulates formations of the squadron, regiment and line equally.

Commanding officers of squadrons are in the charge at the head of them, (those of regiments at the head of its squadron nearest to the point of direction.) In all other situations of manœuvre they are moveable according to circumstances, in general near the head of their column, or of their body which first forms in line. When formed in parade, at its head (those of regiments at that of the right squadron.)

March in Line.

The march of the line in front is the most difficult and the most material of all movements, it is requisite near the enemy, and immediately precedes the attack. In proportion to the extent of front and rapidity required does that difficulty increase; therefore too much exactness and minuteness in the execution of it cannot be observed.

When marching in line, each squadron dresses to its own centre, which centre follows its own leader, the
several

several leaders line with, and preserve distances from each other, and from the regulating squadron; this alone has its objects of march, the others being all subordinate to, and conforming to its motions.

When parts of a line marching in front are interrupted by any obstacle, they must halt, and by flank movements of their divisions, or sub-divisions, double behind (into close column) such adjoining parts as are not so interrupted, and avoid pressing upon them. In proportion as they pass such obstacles, and that the ground permits them to come up into line, they will in the same manner, by flank movements, move up into their proper places, where a void space has been preserved for them. If only small portions of a line are interrupted, and for a short space, they may follow in file, or rather in ranks by threes, behind the flanks of the uninterrupted parts, and move up to their places in file (or by threes) when it can be done.

When the line halts, each squadron halts and dresses by its own centre; and if the dressing of the general line is to be afterwards corrected, it ought to begin at, and be taken from the regulating squadron.

The line should always be in so correct a situation, as to halt instantly on the word. But if at any time the difficulties of ground have unavoidably thrown squadrons out of the line, in such case, the halt of those squadrons will be successive, as they regain their proper situations.

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The distances of squadrons in line are always taken from standard to standard.

The standards must always be carried uniformly and upright, in order to facilitate the moving and dressing of the line.

After the march and halt in line of each squadron by its own centre, if a more exact dressing is required, then two persons are placed with their horses heads before the flank files of the regulating squadron, which is previously dressed in the true direction; each other squadron, from each flank, advances (directly forward) a person to prolong that line; the whole (by squadrons either together or successively, and quickly as ordered) move up and halt in the given line. A straight line is in this manner obtained; but if the intervals are false, they must remain so till corrected by order, and by a separate operation of flank marching.

A flank squadron of a (line or) regiment need never remain an instant with a false interval, or ill dressed, as its corrections do not depend on any other part of the line.

When it is necessary for any squadron, on account of inaccurate and loose formation, to close its files or parts by passing, it should be done to such file of the squadron as will best tend to establish its proper position towards the directing hand; this will depend on the quick eye and decision of the commanding officers

officers of squadrons, who will hold it in view on such occasion.

All correction of the dressing of a line, after forming or halting, is made from the point, by which the movement, formation, or halt was made; should that point be obliged to shift, then the line formed must be an accidental one.

When the line halts after moving in front, such point is the centre of the regulating squadron. When from column, the line is formed by wheeling up, such point is the flank, which was the leading pivot of the column. When the line is formed by the successive marching up of divisions in front, as in change of position on a given division, such point is the outward flank of the given division. In general, when corrections of a line are to be made, the commander places two or three persons in the intended line, which is instantly prolonged by others, and the squadrons conform accordingly.

In the correction of the partial parts of a line, the reining back, or throwing back such parts, cannot always be avoided; but where the whole line is to be new dressed, and that circumstances admit, much facility attends the operation, if such a direction is taken as causes a dressing forward, however small, of every squadron that composes it.

I must now, my Lord, for a moment throw off the plagiarist, and speak in person, just to observe that the foregoing general principles of movement are taken verbatim from Major General Dundas, and that though many of them may appear at first sight to be laid down for the movements of great bodies only, and therefore of little use to Volunteer corps, it must be recollected that it is the *principle of the rule*, and not the *rule itself*, by the application of which to smaller bodies, officers will find themselves enabled to manœuvre them with the same steadiness and precision, which are so indispensibly necessary in lines of greater extent. And I trust that every gentleman appearing in the field with a corps of Yeomanry, will think it as much incumbent on him (whether officer or private gentleman) to be perfect master of the business he is engaged in, as if his professional rank and income were depending on it; it is not necessary that they should do as *much*, but it is surely proper that what is done should be executed as *well* as if they were regular troops. Anxious therefore that my brother volunteers should qualify themselves to deserve that character in the field, which the respectability of their private situations entitles them to in society, I may perhaps be thought to have pressed the rigour of military discipline rather too earnestly, and probably with too much prolixity, on gentlemen who are not professionally soldiers, but I must beg them to recollect, that the few hours which they give up to the silence and steadiness of the soldier, will only serve to add greater relish to the conversation and ease of the gentleman for the remainder of the day. I would willingly

willingly have compressed my matter into a smaller compass, but every word that I have borrowed from General Dundas's truly excellent work, is so essentially useful, that I know not how I could have omitted a syllable more than I have done, without depriving them of some necessary instructions.

But in finishing the general principles, I have got over the heaviest part of my task, and the selection of manœuvres may be brought into much narrower bounds, a very few movements will suffice for the use of volunteer cavalry, to be learned in the first instance; as others may at any time be added on the same principles, when those principles are once perfectly acquired and familiar to them.

General Circumstances that regulate the Changes of Position, and Formations of the Squadron or Regiment.

Changes of position of the squadron or regiment from one distant situation to another are made, *in line* or by the *echellon* (diagonal) *march* of divisions in front, or by the movements of the *column*, especially of the *open column*.

Changes of position in open column, are in general movements of previous disposition, made from one distant situation to another, not liable to the interruption of the enemy. Original or new positions, where circumstances allow, are in this manner easiest and soonest taken, especially in the prolongation or movement of a line to its flank.

Changes of position of the squadron or regiment already formed, when

1. The squadron or regiment wheels the quarter circle to the ordered hand by *divisions*, so as to be ready to move off in one or more columns.

2. A single squadron by the flank march of each of its divisions by threes, moves to arrive in the new line. The leading squadron of a regiment does the same, but the second, third, and every other squadron of a regiment (or line) move off in squadron columns of divisions,

made in one
or more open
columns may
be divided in-
to four parts.

fions, till they arrive at the new position, and it is there that their divisions, separately and successively enter that position.

3. The divisions again form in a general open column, perpendicular to the new direction.

4. When the divisions of each squadron are thus arrived, halted, and adjusted, the line is formed by their wheeling up, division after division, squadron after squadron, or the whole together as ordered.

The *echelon* (or diagonal) *changes of position*, are the safest that can be employed in the presence of and near to an enemy; they are almost equal in security to the march of the line in front, or to an uniform wheel of the line, but which is very difficult to execute; they can be used in the most difficult situations, where the filings and movements of the open column could not be risked; they are more particularly used, when the enemy's flank can be turned by throwing the body forward, or when one's own is to be covered, by throwing it backward. The advantages attending them are, the preserving a general front during the march, and allowing sufficient freedom of movement, which in such a situation is indispensable; they enable to change position on any division of the line, either on a fixed or moving point, and at any instant the movement can

be stopped, a line formed, and a sudden attack repulsed. The echelon changes require the ground to be nearly of such a nature as a full line could advance in, and any of its divisions that meet with obstacles in their march, will pass them in the same manner as they do in line, by doubling divisions, or following ranks by threes, and without interrupting the progress of the others.

Changes of position of the squadron (or regiment) made by the echelon march of divisions consist of three parts.

1. *Divisions of the squadron (or half squadrons of the regiment)* wheel forward an eighth, quarter, or half wheel, as ordered, towards the hand to which they are to change position, and so as that each thereby stands perpendicular to the line drawn from its inward flank to the point that flank is to rest at in the new line.

2. Each division marches on directly in front, by its inward flank to its proper point in the new line.

3. Each division successively on its inward flank arriving at the division preceding it (which is already halted in the line) dresses up, and forms truly in that line.

Each

Each change of position of the squadron (or regiment) may be considered as a general wheel of the whole, made on a point either *in*, *before*, or *behind* the old line.—The squadron (or regiment) therefore breaks to which ever hand, and to which ever division it is to manœuvre to, or be led by; when to a flank, generally to that which is nearest to, and is first to enter any part of the new position; when a central division determines its movement, it breaks (to right and left) inwards, and faces such division, which makes its change of situation on its own ground. When this point is *in* the old line, it must necessarily be within the squadron when single, or within a certain named squadron of a regiment, such squadron will therefore have to perform the change on a fixed point within itself, viz. on such division, flank, or central, as is already rested at that point, and by making its other divisions either by *flank* or *diagonal* marching, enter into the line; but all the other squadrons will have the double operation of moving up to the new line, and then bringing their divisions upon it. When this point is *before* or *behind* the old line, every squadron whatever, single or connected, will have this double operation to perform.

Changes of Position, of the Squadron, (or Regiment.)

The squadron formed in line changes to a new position, either on a fixed point within itself, or on a distant point,

point, which marks one of its future flanks, or where one of its central divisions is to be placed.

When on a fixed point, either flank or central.

1. By the diagonal march of divisions either to front or rear, which move on and line with the placed or fixed one, when it halts on its ground.

2. By breaking into open column, so as to face the fixed point. The divisions then march by their flank to front or rear into the new direction, and wheel up into line, when the column is prepared.

1. By the echelon wheel of divisions, and the subsequent march of the whole, till the one nearest to the new line arrives in it, and that the others move on and form to it.

2. By the breaking into open column to the one or other flank, and the immediate flank march by threes of all the divisions from the old line to the new one.

When on a distant point, and that the whole line is moveable.

3. By the march of the *squadron* (or *regimental*) column to the point where its head is to rest, and then by the flank marching of its divisions into line.

4. By

4. By the march of the column to the point where its *rear* is to rest, and the successive wheeling of its divisions into, and prolonging the line.

5. By the march of the column, and its wheeling into the new line, at the point where one of its *central* divisions is to rest.

Besides the above, which are the most general modes by which changes of position should be effected by the *squadron* (or *regiment*) the open column on arriving at its ground, may also be required to form in line in the following manner.

6. When the column, having arrived perpendicularly or obliquely, behind the line at the point where its *head* is to rest, is there halted, the leading division may be placed on the line; and each other division be ordered to make such a degree of wheel backward, as will enable it to march on in front, perpendicular to its proper point in the new line, where each successively arrives and forms. This is a movement in column, and a formation by the diagonal march.

7. The column arriving in the direction of the line, or in any direction oblique or perpendicular behind the new line, and at the point where its *head* is to rest,
but

but which its rear is to pass, may form by the wheel of the leading division into the new line, and the successive march of the other divisions behind it, and behind each other till they arrive at their several points of wheeling up.

8. The column marching perpendicularly (or nearly so) towards the point where its *head* is to rest, and being at a considerable distance from such point, the leading division proceeds at a slow pace only, the others oblique from the column, successively move up to the leading division, and the front being thus gradually increased, the whole body arrives at the same time on the line of formation.

The column arriving behind any part of its ground, may also move up to close column, and form in line by its deploying (ranks by threes) on the *front*, the *rear*, or on a *central* division,

A squadron (or regiment) broken into, and marching in open column, must arrive at, and enter on the ground on which it is to form in line, either—in the *direction* of that line; *perpendicular* to that line; or in a direction more or less *oblique*, and betwixt the other two.

If

If the column is marching in the direction of the line, it will enter either where its head, or where its rear is to rest.

If where its *head* is to rest—the leading division will wheel up into line, and the others march on behind it, and successively wheel up as in manœuvre 31.

If where its *rear* is to rest—it marches with its pivot flank, and at just distances along the line, till the rear division is at its point; the whole then halt and wheel up into line as in manœuvre 17.

If the column enters perpendicular or oblique to the new line, it will enter either where its head is to rest, where its rear is to rest, or at some intermediate point, where a central division is to rest.

If where its *head* is to rest—the formation may be made as in manœuvre 16.

If where its *rear* is to rest—the formation may be made as in manœuvre 17.

If at an intermediate point, where a *central division* is to rest—the formation may be made, as in manœuvre 18.

All new positions that a squadron (or regiment) can take with

with respect to the old one are—PARALLEL, or nearly so to the old one—INTERSECTING by themselves or their prolongation, some part of the old line, or its prolongation.

New parallel positions being necessarily to the front or rear of the old one, the squadron will, according to circumstances, take them up by the diagonal march; the flank march of divisions after wheeling into column; or the movement in open column to the new line, and its subsequent formation in it.

New intersecting positions, which themselves cut the squadron, will be taken up by the diagonal march; or the flank march ranks by threes of divisions.

All other new positions, which by their prolongation, intersect the old line or its prolongation, will in general be taken up by the march in open column, and its subsequent formations when it arrives at the line; some such positions will, however, allow of and require being made by the *echelon* march, or by the flank march of divisions. In general the squadron (or regiment) will break to the hand which is nearest to the new position, be conducted to its nearest point in the new line, and form on it as directed.

It is to be remembered (though probably seldom occurring in the Volunteer Cavalry than other troops) that in changes of position in open, or in echelon column, it is only *one* squadron of a line (whether composed

posed of one or any greater number of regiments) whose movements can be central. Every other squadron whatever, must manœuvre from a leading flank.

In changes of position by the open column. The whole body (squadron, regiment, or line) as a general rule, is directed to wheel the whole quarter circle into open column, although it may often seem an unnecessary operation, and that disengaging the heads of divisions would answer the same purpose, where the change is to be performed by their *flank* marching. Yet this is to be observed as the general mode, because it is a positive and defined situation, from which every change can proceed; whereas all other modes are liable to uncertainty and mistake; and the apparent going over a little unnecessary ground is a matter of no moment in point of time, whilst it begets precision, and correctness of execution.

This rule, which takes place for all the following divisions of a column, will in some situations be dispensed with as to a leading division, which often would have to wheel up again over the same ground, when the column is put in motion towards its new position. A previous and separate caution from the commanding officer, may therefore, when it is seen necessary, prevent this extra movement to the leading division, and give it a more favourable situation in the direction in which it is to proceed.

In central changes of position within a squadron or regiment, and which are made by the movements of the open column, the squadron (or regiment) will in general break inwards into two open columns facing each other and the given point, so that one has its right in front, and the other its left. From this situation, by the flank march of divisions, or by the march in columns, its component parts move to their new position, and the central divisions which face each other, having there taken a double wheeling distance, the divisions wheel up into line. The advantages of making central changes by breaking *inwards*, so as the whole stand faced to the given division or divisions, in two columns, are—that the universal rule of all bodies breaking, dressing, and forming to whatever point they are led by, or manœuvre to, is observed.—That the taking of distances in the new general column are all from *before*, and none from *behind*, which last is a matter of difficulty and delay.—That the parts of the line on each side of the central division or divisions work exactly in the same manner, and form in line by one and the same method.—That the breaking inwards of the line (or the countermarch of such part of an open column, as is before a given division, which countermarch of each division is the affair of a moment) gives these advantages.

Every squadron leader must quickly judge the extent of his squadron; and every division leader, and marker of a pivot flank, the front of the division which he regulates—practice and attention soon give accuracy in
these

these points, which are an essential part of regimental instruction. It has already been mentioned that one yard nearly is to be allowed for each horse and man, and therefore the front of a body must be reckoned as many yards as files.

The flank march ranks by threes of the squadron, half-squadron, or division, is so much employed, and so essential in the movements and changes of situation of the squadron, regiment, or line, that it is to be principally attended to in their instruction, and much practised by the distinct bodies. In that shape they are little or nothing extended, which is the most important of all circumstances, and the several ranks are as close up as they can, without interfering or crowding. They should be conducted briskly in all kind of varying directions; and at any moment when the word **HALT** is given, be found in a situation instantly to **WHEEL UP** by threes, and form.

<i>Threes right</i> <i>(or left)</i> <i>Wheel.</i> <i>March.</i> <i>Halt. Dress.</i>	{	When a division wheels to a flank, ranks by threes, it receives the words, <i>Threes right (or left) wheel. March.</i> On which each three wheels on its centre man; and then—<i>Halt—Dress—to the</i> pivot hand.
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<i>March.</i>	{	At the second word <i>March</i>, it moves off, and is conducted in any ordered direction, and at any pace.
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M

Halt.

<i>Halt.</i> <i>Threes wheel</i> <i>up.</i> <i>March.</i> <i>Halt. Dress.</i>	{	When its head arrives at the point of forming it receives the words——<i>Halt. Threes wheel up. March. Halt. Dress,</i> to the pivot hand in column; and is then ready to march forward, or to wheel into line, if it is a division of a column.
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The words of command given by the commanding officer (of whatever body, whether squadron, regiment, or line) and repeated by leaders of squadrons, are marked on the margin in **CAPITALS**.

The words of command given by leaders of half-squadrons, divisions, or subdivisions, are marked on the margin in *italics*.

MANŒUVRES.

MANŒUVRE I.

When the Squadron (or Regiment) is formed and halted, and wheels forwards to a Flank into open Column of half Squadrons or Divisions.

CAUTION.

{ At the caution that the squadron will wheel to the right (or left) into open column of——, a non-commissioned officer from the leading flank (of every squadron in the field) will move out to mark the square of the wheel. N. B. It is hardly necessary to observe that where ever the word CAUTION appears, the exercising officer will give such as shall be fully explanatory of the movement to be executed at the word MARCH.

MARCH.

HALT, DRESS.

At the word MARCH, repeated by leaders of squadrons, the line wheels up into the ordered divisions, the leaders of squadrons giving the words HALT, DRESS, which is done to the standing flank, and the other proper pivot leaders immediately place themselves on that flank of their respective bodies, as in Figure 6.— In this situation the whole remains, although the pivots should not cover (which must be the case when the divisions are not of equal strength) nor is any one to move or attempt it, unless it is so ordered by the commander from the front.

Should it be required again to form in line on the same ground, the divisions will go about, ranks by threes—Wheel back into the spaces they quitted, and again front. Were they in such situation to wheel forward there would be false distances, and an ill formed line.

If the column is to begin and continue in march, it is not essential to make the pivots cover previous to their moving, but they will in the course of their march gradually do so, and they will also in the same manner acquire their true wheeling up distances from each other; for each starts with a distance not equal to its own front, but to that of the division which precedes it.

MA-

MANOEUVRE II.

When the Squadron (or Regiment) wheels into open Column, either by reining back, or wheeling back.

As it appears, unless the divisions of a line are equal, that their pivots will not cover when they wheel *forward* into open column, nor will their proper wheeling distances from each other be exact; and as these are circumstances, so essential for the march of a column, and for its subsequent formation into line, that they must be attained before accuracy in either can take place, the formation of a column from line by wheeling the divisions *backward*, instead of *forward*, will at once give these advantages, and it is thought may, in almost all situations of manœuvre, be made use of when the object is the prolongation of a given direction, and the after formation into line.

CAUTION.	}	The line goes to the right about, ranks by threes.
THREES ABOUT,		
MARCH.		
HALT, DRESS.		

HALF SQUADRONS	}	The line wheels forward the quarter circle, by half squadrons, or by divisions as ordered, into open column.
(OR DIVISIONS)		
RIGHT (OR LEFT)		
WHEEL, MARCH.		
HALT, DRESS.		

THREES FRONT,	{	The column comes about by threes, and dresses to the pivot hand.
MARCH.		
HALT, DRESS.		

In this manner the pivot files cover exactly, and have nearly also kept their ground; losing only about one horse's length to the rear, which is occasioned by wheeling on the *rear* rank pivot instead of the *front*, as may be seen in Figure 8, where A, B, is the original alignment, and C, D. the present line of pivots, and of future formation. In order to explain this movement as clearly as possible, I have represented the left or leading half squadron as having completed the wheel, and fronted its threes; whilst the right half squadron is shewn in the act of wheeling with its threes about. The latter also exemplifies what has been before mentioned, that it is always the pivot *file* and not the pivot *leader* on which the wheel is to be made; H. being the pivot point on which the wheel is making from F. to G.—E. C. the arc to be described by the leading half squadron in wheeling up to form again on the pivot point I. Though the small space of ground lost from the original alignment will in most situations be of little consequence, as the more material circumstance of covering the pivots exactly is obtained by this movement, yet where it is required to preserve the original ground also, it will be best to break into open column of *divisions* by reining back on the pivot flanks.

CAUTION.
DIVISIONS RIGHT
(OR LEFT)
BACKWARDS WHEEL.
MARCH.

HALT. DRESS.

{ The front rank pivot man of each division turns very slowly on his horse's fore feet to the ordered hand, the other front rank men of the division reining back and dressing with him, the rear rank reining back at the proper distance from, and covering exactly their file leaders.—At the word HALT, DRESS, the whole dress to the pivot flank.

In either method the distance from division to division is equal to the front of each; the leaders place themselves on the pivot flank of divisions, any small irregularity of covering is easily corrected, and the column is in a situation either to form in line by wheeling up, or to move forward with exactness. Should the commanding officer think it necessary to wheel backwards by half squadrons and at the same time to preserve the exact alignment, it will be done by moving the flank files (of every squadron) one horse's length forwards, and dressing the squadron up to them before the threes go about.

MANOEUVRE III. b

When the Squadron (or Regiment) after having wheeled into open Column, marches to the Flank or in any other given Direction.

CAUTION. THE CO- LUMN WILL MARCH.	{	If the prolongation of the line on which the column stands is the object, such line must be marked by persons thrown forward in it, from distance to distance, who are successively past by the pivot leaders of divisions.
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If the head of the column is ordered to change its direction, the new line must continue to be marked in the same manner that the old one was; and each division, when it arrives at the place where the leading one changed into it, will successively conform.

If a straight line is not meant to be observed, the leader of the column will march by his eye; the other divisions will follow his exact path at their just distances, and no advanced person need be sent out to the front.

MANOEUVRE IV.

When the Head of the open Column changes Direction on a moveable Pivot, and enters on a Line which it is to prolong.

Before the head of a column in *march* enters a straight line which it is to prolong, and form upon, and whose direction has been previously ascertained by the commander, a point of entry must be marked by a placed person (who is to remain there till he is relieved) and also another point in it, at least sixty or seventy paces from the first person. Three other persons immediately and successively place themselves on the prolongation of the same line, at 150 paces from the point of entry, and from each other. Two of these persons at least, having taken their station by the time that the leading division enters the line, as soon as the head of it approaches the first of them, he gallops on, and anew alignes himself beyond the other two, and this operation each successively repeats till the column halts.

CHANGE DI-	{	The <i>head</i> of the column will in general be so led as gradually to enter the new direction, at or near the first given point, and will then, by continuing its regular pace, move along the line. The other divisions successively enter in the same manner, and preserving their just distances,
RECTION.		
Right		
(or left)		
Shoulder forward.		

Forward. | distances, pass with their pivots the several objects established in the new line, and thus cover from front to rear.

In this manner the column always marching on two advanced objects, the point of entry being fixed and remaining; the commanding officers of regiments moving correctly on the flanks of their leading divisions; the adjutants occasionally stopping in the new line, as points which the pivots of their regiments are to pass, must correct any small inaccuracy of the march of the column, and keep the whole pivots in the general direction given by the advanced persons.

It is only when the column of manœuvre is marching in a straight alignment, that the commanding officer is invariably attached to the head division of his regiment; for in other situations of march, he need by no means remain fixed at its head, but be moveable on its flank, to watch its general progress.

The above are Gen. Dundas's directions for a considerable column, but the same degree of exactitude not being required for smaller bodies, it will be sufficient for a single *volunteer* squadron to mark the point of entry by one of the ferrefile serjeants, prolonging the line by the other two, and in case of the absence of any of the serjeants, putting the trumpeters in their places.—The quarter-master may also be usefully employed as adjutant in occasionally correcting the pivots and distances.

When

When the open Column wheels on a fixed Point into a new Alignement.

The alignement is entered by the leading division wheeling either to its *pivot* or *reverse* flank.—In either case the pivot leaders arrive on that line and march along it; and when the line is afterwards formed by wheels up to the pivot flank, it will in one instance face to the *rear* of the column, and in the other towards the *head* of the column.

MANOEUVRE V.

When the open Column wheels on its halted reverse Flank into a new Alignement, and marches on it.

CAUTION TO—

Right wheel.

{ The new alignement being determined by placed objects, and the point of entry being marked, the leading officer, who has marched his pivot flank on that point, when he arrives at a distance equal to the front of his division from it, orders *Right* (or *Left*) *Wheel*; (according to whichever is the reverse flank) and the wheel is made so that on the conclusion of it at the word *Halt*,

Halt. Dress.

March.

Right Wheel.

Halt. Dress.

March.

Halt, Dress, he himself shall be placed on the new alignment, on the pivot of his division, ready to give the word *March*, as soon as the succeeding division has arrived at the wheeling point.

The officer of the second division gives his word *Wheel*, when he arrives at the ground which the first is quitting, and then—*Halt — Dress*—when the wheel is completed ; in this situation he remains, till he perceives the preceding division has gained from him a distance equal to the front of his division, he then instantly gives the word—*March*—and follows in column. Each succeeding division observes the same directions, and the equality of pace being preserved, the column may continue its march in perfect order.

It is to be observed, that by whatever degree of wheel on a fixed flank, the leading division of a column enters on a new direction, it is never to move on till the succeeding one is come up to it, and on the instant of wheeling.

MANOEUVRE VI.

When the open Column wheels on its halted pivot Flank into a new Alignement, and marches in it.

CAUTION.	{ The leading division begins its wheel to the pivot flank on the alignement itself, when its pivot flank officer arrives <i>at</i> the point of wheeling, instead of beginning (as in the preceding manœuvre) at the distance of a division short of that point.
<i>Left—Wheel.</i>	
<i>Halt. Dress.</i>	
<i>March.</i>	

MANOEUVRE VII.

When the open Column, composed of Divisions of unequal Strength, wheels to its reverse fixed Flank, into a new Alignement.

CAUTION.	{ The pivot flank continues to direct, till the leading division arrives in its full front, behind its proper wheeling ground, and at a due distance from it. The word— <i>Right (or Left) Wheel</i> —being then given, the <i>reverse</i> flank of
<i>Right Wheel.</i>	

Halt Dress.
March.

[of that division stops, and the other flank completes the wheel, so that at the next words—*Halt—Dress—March*—the pivot officer may be exactly placed on and prolong the new line of direction; they thus succeed each other, observing that a *stronger* division wheels short of the ground of its preceding *weaker* one, by the space of as many files as it exceeds it in front; and a *weaker* division overpasses the ground of its preceding one, by the extent of as many files as it is deficient; in both cases after the wheel, the divisions will have retained the same relative situations as before its commencement, and the pivot files will still cover.

If the wheels are made to the *pivot* flank, then the inequality of divisions does not operate, and they commence on the arrival of each pivot at the wheeling point.

MANOEUVRE VIII.

When a Squadron (or Regiment) already formed, is to wheel into open Column, and prolong its Direction.

Three persons take their stations beyond the flank to be prolonged, as points of march. The divisions should be wheeled *back* into open column. The column moves on the points of march, and the adjutants (or quarter master of a single squadron) by making occasional halts in the true line which they can take up from the advanced persons, and from each other, bound the pivot flanks of the column, and preserve it in its proper direction.

MANOEUVRE IX.

When the open Column halts in the new Direction in order to wheel up into Line.

When the first (or the last) division, (according to circumstances) arrives at a given point in the alignment, the whole column HALTS by order, and if the covering and dressing of the pivot flank leaders want any correction, it is instantly made from the front division towards the rear, along the placed objects that have determined the alignment. The files of men next to the pivot leaders, are to follow and partake of all their movements,

movements, and neither to crowd on them, nor to remain opened from them; therefore, whenever such leaders cover, and are well aligned, their adjoining files will be the same, and can want no further correction.

The column receives the word HALT, when its leading division is at a wheeling distance short of the point, where its flank is to be placed.

MANOEUVRE X.

When part of the open Column halts in the new Direction, and the remaining Divisions are ordered to enter it by Flank marching.

HALT.
THREES LEFT WHEEL.
MARCH.
HALT, DRESS.
MARCH.
Halt, Threes wheel up.
March.
Halt, Dress.

When the head of a regimental (or squadron) column arrives at a given point, the whole is ordered to HALT. Such divisions of the column as are still in the old direction are then ordered to WHEEL to their *pivot flank ranks by threes. They MARCH, and successively place their pivots on the new line, at their just

* If the new direction is taken on the reverse flank of the column; and vice versa on the pivot.

wheeling

wheeling distances, which are ascertained for them by the persons they timeously detach for that purpose.— The whole pivots being thus covered and dressed in the new direction, the column is prepared for wheeling up into line.

MANOEUVRE XI.

When the open Column, halted on the Ground on which it is to form, wheels up into Line.

WHEEL INTO LINE.

MARCH.

{ Distances being just, and pivot leaders truly covered—the caution is given, WHEEL INTO LINE, when the then *pivot* flank leaders place themselves each on the *reverse* flank of such division, as by its wheel up brings them to their true place in squadron. The leading division of each squadron sends out a person to line himself with the pivot files. At the word MARCH, the N whole

HALT, DRESS.

whole wheel up into line, which is marked by the pivot men, and also bounded by the horses heads of the faced markers of it.—
 HALT, DRESS, is then given, the instant before the completion of the wheel, and eyes are then turned to the standing flank (to which the correction of the squadron is made) and remain so till otherwise ordered; so that a line formed by wheels to the left, will remain with eyes to the left—and the right to the right.

During the wheel up, the standard moves to its place in squadron, and at the halt, every individual has gained his proper post.

After the *Halt, Dress*, each leader instantly corrects the dressing of his squadron; remembering that the pivots (who before the wheel up must have been truly posted) are not to be moved. A regiment (or line) will be corrected by a field officer riding quickly along the front from (that which was) the leading flank, to which eyes will be previously ordered.

CHANGES OF POSITION OF THE SQUADRON (OR REGIMENT) FROM LINE, by movements of the open column, are made, either on a *fixed* point within the line, or on a *distant* point without it.

ON A FIXED POINT.

M A N O E U V R E XII.

When the Squadron (or Regiment) forms open Column of Divisions, behind a placed flank Division, and throws back the other Flank.

Two persons are advanced immediately before the flank division, to mark, and who face to the determined line on which the pivots of the column are to stand.

CAUTION.

{ The flank division is *placed* perpendicular to that line, and with its pivot upon it.

DIVISIONS, RIGHT,
WHEEL.
MARCH.
HALT, DRESS.

{ The line WHEELS up into open column of similar divisions, towards the placed division.

THREES RIGHT
WHEEL.
MARCH.
HALT, DRESS.

{ The divisions WHEEL the quarter circle, each ranks by threes, the reverse (and not the pivot) flank leading, and the conductor being there placed.

N 2

The

MARCH.

*Halt. — Threes wheel
up.*

March.

Halt. Dress.

The divisions MARCH, and form in open column behind the head division and each other, preserving their wheeling and interval distances, and placing their pivot flanks on the new line, which is taken from the original objects in it, and prolonged to each of them by their own detached persons. — The *pivots* being covered and dressed, and distances just from front to rear of the column, the whole is in a situation to wheel into line.

The better to ascertain those flank points, the coverer of each pivot leader will successively, as they approach the new line, gallop on and place himself upon it, at the wheeling distance of his division from the one before him, facing to the head of the column, and covering exactly those that have already taken their places therein. — The coverer thus standing on the spot which his leader is to occupy, such and every other leader, when he arrives

Halt.
Threes wheel up.
March.
Halt. Dress.

arrives at the line, stops there himself, and allows his division to pass on behind its marker, till its *rear* comes up; he then *Halts*, *Fronts* it, and *Dresses* and closes it to its pivot marker on the line.—It is to be observed, that in this case the divisions *cross* the new line, in order to place their pivots upon it.

All divisions that, by flank marching, mean to form in open column on a new line, should take particular care that the last part of their movement, and at least for a space equal to their own extent, is made in a line not oblique, but square and perpendicular to the line of pivots, for thereby will they at once form up, firm, compact, and on their true ground; and therefore, in the first part of the march, the head of their divisions should not be directed *on* their future pivot point, but rather *wide* of it, so as to allow for the square entry of each on its forming ground.

If, when from line, divisions wheel into open column towards a standing division, and the flanks of the division next such standing one may not thereby be sufficiently disengaged for whatever movement is immediately to be required, such division (alone) may be ordered only to half wheel, quarter wheel, or rein back a flank, as may best answer the proposed end.

MANOEUVRE XIII.

When the Squadron (or Regiment) forms open Column of Divisions before a flank Division, and throws forward the other Flank.

Two persons are placed as in the last manœuvre, but *behind* the flank division, in order to give the determined line on which the pivots of the column are to stand.

CAUTION.

The *flank* division by wheeling, or countermarching, is placed with its pivot on, and perpendicular to, that line, and in such situation it makes front towards the rear.

DIVISIONS, RIGHT,
WHEEL.
MARCH.
Halt. Dress.

The line WHEELS up into open column of divisions towards the placed division.

THREES, LEFT,
WHEEL.
MARCH.
Halt. Dress.

The divisions WHEEL the quarter circle, each by RANKS BY THREE'S, the pivot flank leading.

The

MARCH.

Halt.—Threes Wheel up.

March.

Halt. Dress.

The divisions MARCH and form open column in the new direction as before —In this case, as their pivot flanks lead, they do not *cross* the new line, but arrive at and place them upon it; the pivot leader himself there remaining.—The pivots being covered, and distances just, the column stands ready to wheel into line, or to march on.

MANOEUVRE XIV.

When the Squadron (or Regiment) forms open Column of Divisions before and behind a central Division.

The *central* division is named, and also the wings, as they are to be before and behind it.

The *new* direction is taken, and the central division placed (as in M. XII.)

CAUTION.
DIVISIONS WHEEL IN-
WARDS.
MARCH. HALT. DRESS.

{ The line is ordered to WHEEL inwards by divisions towards the placed division, and thus stands in two open columns facing each other.

THREES LEFT (OR RIGHT)
WHEEL.—MARCH.
Halt. Dress.
March.

{ The divisions WHEEL ranks by threes, both to the same flank, viz. their leading one, which in those that are to move to the front is the *pivot* flank, and in those that are to move to the rear, is the *reverse* flank.

Halt, Threes Wheel up.
March.
Halt. Dress.

{ The part of the line which leads with its reverse flank, forms in column *behind* the placed division, (as in M. XII), the part which leads with its pivot flank forms in column *before* the placed division, (as in M. XIII.); and its head division is to remember, that if the line is afterwards to be formed, it will take a double wheeling distance from the division it fronts, as they would then wheel up towards each other, but if the column is to move on, it will only take single distance.

In

In this formation (particularly of more than *one* squadron), the pivot line should be sufficiently marked by detached persons, both before and behind the central division; and the pivots of the wing which forms *behind* it, will take their general direction from the pivots of those that form *before* it, as these last have the greatest facility in forming in consequence of their pivot flanks leading.

When the *whole* are thus in column facing the central division, if the line is to be formed the whole will WHEEL up to their pivots (as in M. XI.).—If the column is to march, the necessary part of it will COUNTER-MARCH its divisions, (as in M. XX.), and then the whole can move on.

ON A DISTANT POINT.

M A N O E U V R E XV.

When the Squadron (or Regiment) changes to a distant Position in Front or Rear, by the flank marching of the open Column, and that this Position is either parallel or oblique to the one it quits.

{ The squadron breaks in-
to column of divisions to
which ever hand the new
position

DIVISIONS, RIGHT (or
LEFT) WHEEL.
MARCH.
HALT. DRESS.

position outflanks the old one, for to that hand will the whole have to incline during the march; and, if it does not sensibly outflank, then the squadron will break to the hand next to the point of intersection of the two lines, for that hand is nearest to, and will, in general, be the first to enter any part of the new position.

THREES, LEFT (OR
RIGHT) WHEEL.
Halt. Dress.

The squadron standing in open column is ordered to WHEEL its divisions by THREES to a flank.—The leader of the second division has then a direction given him which crosses the new line at the point as near as can be judged where the flank of that division is to be placed. The whole are then put in motion.—The leader of the second division marches in his given direction at a steady pace; the commanding officer remains with the head division, and by

MARCH.

Halt.
Threes wheel up.
March.
Halt. Dress.

by making it gradually advance or keep back, regulates the heads of all the others during the march, as they endeavour to continue themselves nearly in the prolonged line of the heads of the two leading divisions, but at any rate they are not to be before them; and when those two divisions *halt* their pivots in the line, the others without hurrying, arrive successively in the new direction, and stand in open column at their just wheeling distances.—When the head of the column is within 60 or 70 yards of the new line, (its direction being already prepared) the pivot markers gallop out, and mark the pivot flanks of their several divisions, (as in M. XII.).

In this manner, the commander, who is himself with and conducts the two leading divisions, moves them in the direction which best answers his views, and at once takes up any position, and to any front, that is necessary.—As circumstances change his intentions, he may, at every

every instant, vary and direct them upon new points of march, the other divisions of the column conforming (without the necessity of sending particular orders) to whatever alterations of direction the *head* may take ; and the commander conducting that head so as to enable the rear to comply with its movements without hurry.— During the transition, the wheeling distances should be nearly preserved by the divisions ; but at any rate, great care must be taken that they are correct, just before entering the new line.

When the divisions in this manner gain a new position by flank marching, they always break to the flank which is nearest to that position, and place their pivot flanks upon it.

When the new line outflanks *towards* the point of intersection, then the squadron breaking to that hand, will have its head nearer to the new line than its rear.— When the new line outflanks *from* the point of intersection, then the squadron breaking from that point will have its head farther from the new line than its rear ; but in this case the divisions must be so directed during the march, by making a kind of gradual wheel forward upon the rear, that the head shall enter the new line before the rear arrives upon it.

MANOEUVRE XVI.

When the Squadron (or Regiment) changes Position, by breaking into open Column of Divisions (or half Squadrons), marches to the Point in the new Line where its Head is to be placed, and enters on the Line by the Flank March of its Divisions.

The column being formed as in M. I.

HALT.

THREES $\frac{\text{LEFT}}{\text{RIGHT}}$ WHEEL.
MARCH.
Halt. Dress.

And the pivot flank of the column being directed on the person who marks the flank point in the new line, the whole will HALT when arrived within a few yards of him; and a point of direction 60 or 70 yards beyond him, is supposed also to be ascertained.—The whole divisions are then WHEELED by threes (to the right or left, as is necessary to conduct into the new line), and the pivot markers move out to mark their points for each division, (as in M. XII.).

At

MARCH.

Halt.

Threes wheel up.

March.

Halt. Dress.

At the word MARCH, the whole divisions move by their flanks; the head one places its pivot at a wheeling distance from the point of entry; and every other one, in the manner before directed, arrange themselves behind the head one, and behind each other; their flanks being corrected by the commanding officer, they are then ready to wheel up into line.

The flank which the divisions break to by threes, and move from, will depend on which side of the person they are to be arranged, and which way the line is to face.

MANOEUVRE XVII.

When the Squadron (or Regiment) changes Position by breaking into open Column of Divisions (or half Squadrons), marching to the Point in the new Line where its Rear is to be placed, and entering on and prolonging the Line, by the successive Wheels of its Divisions.

The squadron broken into column (as in M. I.) and the pivot flank directed on the marked point of entry,
two

two advanced points of march in the new line must also be given.—The column then enters by the successive wheels of its divisions, and moves on, as in M. V. if to the *reverse* flank; or as in M. VI. if to the *pivot*; and when its last division is at its point, it receives the word HALT, and pivots being corrected, the whole are ready to wheel up into line.

When a regimental open column enters a new position, where its rear flank is to be placed.—*If the wheels are made to the pivot band*, it receives the word HALT, when its rear division has just completed its wheel into the new direction. *If the wheels are made to the reverse band*, it receives the word HALT, when the last division but one has completed its wheel into the new direction, and the last division itself, by the flank march by three's, places its pivot flank at the given point.

When an open column, marching on a straight line, is to form at a point where its rear flank is to be placed, it will receive the word HALT, when the pivot of its rear division arrives at that point.

MANOEUVRE XVIII.

When the Squadron (or Regiment) changes Position by breaking into open Column, marching to the Point in the new Line, where a central Division is to be placed, and there entering on the Line.

Right (or Left) Wheel.

Halt. Dress.

March.

HALT.

The leading division of the column having at the given point *wheeled* into the alignment, followed by the others, as far as the named central division; the word **HALT** is then given, and the column stops.

THREES LEFT (or RIGHT) WHEEL.

MARCH.

HALT. DRESS.

Such divisions as have already wheeled into the alignment, being now at their proper points, remain so.—Such divisions as are still in the old direction, are ordered to **WHEEL** by threes to the flank which conducts to their place in the new line, and the markers move forward.

MARCH.

Halt.

Threes Wheel up.

March.

Halt. Dress.

At the command to **MARCH**, they all move and *Halt* with their pivot flanks on it, ready to **WHEEL** up into line.

This

This movement includes both the operations of a Squadron entering a new line, where its rear is to rest, and where its front is to rest.

MANOEUVRE XIX.

When the Squadron (or Regiment) changes Position by breaking into open Column, marching to the Point in the new Line, where its head Division is to be placed, and on which its rear Divisions form by the diagonal March of each.

HALT.

ON THE RIGHT (or
LEFT) REIN BACK.
MARCH.

Halt. Dress.

The column will advance to the spot where its leading division is to be placed, and will then receive the word HALT.—The leading division will then be more accurately placed on the new line; and each of the other divisions will be ordered to WHEEL BACK on its reverse flank as much as is necessary to place that flank perpendicular to its point in the new line.—The conducting officers having placed themselves on that flank, the
O whole

MARCH.

Left (or Right)

Shoulder Forward.

Halt. Dress.

whole will MARCH, and successively form up to the leading division by the diagonal movement. In this manner the divisions of the column arrive in full front one after the other, in the new line; and that line must face the same as the column did.

If the column halts perpendicular to the new line, its divisions will wheel back one eighth of the circle, or a half wheel.—If the column halts oblique to the new line, the divisions will proportionally wheel, so as to be placed perpendicular to their future lines of march.

If the line was to be formed on the rear division of the column, that division would remain placed, the others would WHEEL ABOUT BY THREES—WHEEL BACK on the pivot flanks of the column, as being those which conduct into line.—MARCH—and then HALT—Wheel about successively, and dress, in the line of the rear division.

If the line was to be formed on the rear division, but facing to the rear—the whole column would first countermarch, each division by files, and then proceed as in forming on a front division.

If the line was to be formed on the central division of the column—that division would stand fast, or make such change

change on its own centre as might be required.—Those in front of it would be ordered to wheel **THREES ABOUT**—the whole except the central division would **WHEEL BACK** the named degree; those in its front, on the proper *pivot* flanks of the column, and those in its rear on the *reverse* flanks, such being the conducting flanks into line.—The whole would then march into line with the central division. If the column was a retiring one, and the line was to front to the rear, the divisions must each countermarch before the formation began, and the head would be thrown back, and the rear forward.

THE CHANGES OF POSITION OF A COLUMN, are the same as those of a LINE, after that line has broken into column; only the wheels from line into column, and from column into line, are not included.

MANOEUVRE XX.

When the open Column changes its Front and leading Flank, by the Countermarch of its Divisions, each on its own Ground.

DIVISIONS WILL
COUNTERMARCH.

{ The column being halted,
the pivot coverer takes exactly
the place of his leader, but
O 2 facing

FROM THE RIGHT (OR
LEFT) BY THE
REAR FILE.

MARCH.

Halt. Dress.

facing to the *rear*.—The whole divisions then **FILE** from their reverse flanks, each by its own rear, and such flank (now to become its pivot one) is brought up, the front rank man to the stationed person. The following files *close* in to their leaders, the column stands square, but facing to its former rear, and the coverer reins back to make place for the proper flank leader.—The column has thus changed its front and leading flanks.

In the countermarch, the filing is always from the flank which is not the pivot, but is to become such.

This countermarch of each division is an evolution of great utility. It is equivalent to the **WHEEL ABOUT** of each division of the open column, but without altering the line of pivots, or their true covering.—It at once changes the front of a column.—It enables a column marching in an alignment, to return along that same line, and to take such new positions in it as circumstances may require, without inverting the front of the line.—It applies to the half and quarter, as well as full and open column.—In many situations of forming
from

from column into line, it becomes a necessary previous operation.

When a column has thus countermarched by divisions, unless the divisions are equal, the distances will not be the true wheeling up ones, but will be such as are equal to the front of the preceding division, and therefore the true distances must be regained before the divisions can truly wheel up into line.

MANOEUVRE XXI.

When the open Column changes its leading Flank, by bringing up the rear Division to the front, successively followed by each other.

HALT,
CAUTION.
Threes right wheel.
March.
Halt. Dress.
March.
Halt.
Threes wheel up.
March.
Halt, Dress.
March.

If the right of the Squadron (or regiment) is in front, the left to be brought up, and the column to continue to advance. The whole is ordered to HALT.—At the caution LEFT WING TO THE FRONT, the leader of the left (or rear) division, immediately orders it *Threes Right wheel; March.* till his left flank can freely pass the right flank of the others. —He then commands—*Halt* —*Wheel up—March*—close by the

the right flank of the division then preceding him, he himself being now on the right, which becomes his pivot flank.

Threes right wheel.

March.

Halt, Dress.

March.

Halt.

Threes wheel up.

March.

Halt, Dress.

March.

The officer commanding his preceding division, as soon as the other approaches him, orders, *Threes right wheel—March*—behind the now leading one.—*Halt—Wheel up*—when he covers, and then *March*; when at the due wheeling distance.—All the other divisions successively perform the same operation, and when the right division has taken its place in the rear, the whole column is in perfect order, and proceeding in whatever direction is given to it.

If the column before this operation stands closed to half or quarter distance, then each division proceeds as above directed, and takes its distance from its preceding one before it moves on.

This operation may be required in taking up original positions from column of march. It changes the leading flanks

flanks of a column, and enables it to enter on a line which unforeseen circumstances require it should prolong.—It permits a regimental column, assembled at a rendezvous, to march off from whatever flank is most advantageous, to enter on its line of formation.—It prepares a column which has expected to form by wheels to its right, to form to its left without inverting its order.—In a column composed of several squadrons, where an inversion of the squadrons, but not of the wings of the line, is meant to be prevented, then each squadron separately will perform this operation; but if the inversion also of the wings is to be avoided, then the column will proceed as if it was a single squadron.

It must be observed, that the leading division comes out generally on the side to which front is naturally made, because the divisions which are free can, at any time, wheel into line, while the others are marching behind it.

At the same time it may be observed, that if the line on which the pivots stand is necessarily to be prolonged, that end will be best attained by the divisions coming out to the other side, viz. to their pivot hand.

M A N O E U V R E XXII.

*If the Column is to change its Wings on the Ground
on which it then stands.*

THREES ABOUT,
MARCH.

HALT. DRESS.

MARCH.

Halt. Dress.

Threes Left (or Right)

Wheel. Halt. Dress.

March.

Halt. Dress.

Threes wheel up.

March. Halt, Dress.

March.

The rear division proceeds as already directed; all the others WHEEL BY THREES ABOUT, and MARCH on, towards the place from whence the rear division moved, when the second division arrives at the advancing one, it *wheels threes* to the flank—*marches* behind the leading one—*Halts*—*wheels up*—and *marches* on, when at its due distance.—In this manner all the rest proceed, till the first and last division of the column have exchanged places, only that the whole column is removed a distance to one flank, of a space equal to the front of its leading division.

MANOEUVRE XXIII.

When the Column changes its leading Flank by the divisions marching through each other from Rear to Front.

DIVISIONS RIGHT and
LEFT PASS.
MARCH.

Halt.

March.

Incline Inwards.

March.

Forward.

{ Supposing the column standing marched from the right, at the word DIVISIONS (to the right and left) PASS—MARCH—all the divisions except the last, open by passing, half to each flank, a space equal to their own front sufficient to allow a division to march through.

{ The last division marches on, through the others, and as soon as its rear rank arrives at the front rank of the one next to it, that division closes in by inclining, marches, and follows at its due distance.—In this manner they succeed each other till the column is formed, as marched off from the left, and continues to advance.

MA-

MANOEUVRE XXIV.

*If the Ground of the Column is not to be changed
by this Operation.*

CAUTION.—MARCH.

Halt. Dress.

MARCH.

Wheel about inwards.

Forward.

The divisions (except the last) will wheel about outwards, by half divisions. The whole will receive the word *March*. The leading one proceeds towards the front through the opening, the others towards the rear, and as each arrives at its preceding and advancing division, it in due time wheels very briskly its subdivisions inwards, and follows at its proper distance in open column, till the leading and closing divisions have exchanged places.

MANOEUVRES XXV. XXVI. and XXVII.

When the Squadron (or Regiment) in open Column of Divisions changes its Position, on a fixed Front, Rear, or central Division.

1. *If on a front division.*—That division is placed with its pivot flank on and perpendicular to the new direction, and points before it and behind it are given as ordered for the regiment. The others *Wheel* to a flank by threes; *March*, and cover it in the new line.

2. *If on a rear division.*—That division will be placed—each other division of the column will countermarch by file. The change will then be made as on a *front* division. The divisions of the column will again each countermarch; the change will have been thus completed, and the column is in a situation to wheel up into line, or to move on.

3. *If on a central division.*—That division will be placed perpendicular to, and with its pivot flank on the new direction, and points before it and behind it are given, where the pivots of its adjoining divisions are to be placed.—All such as were before it countermarch and face it.—The change will be made before and behind it. The divisions that countermarched will again countermarch, and the column will stand formed in the new direction.

Should

Should it be intended to form the line immediately after making the change of position, in that case the division which faces to, and is next to the placed one, would take care to *halt* in the new position with a *double* distance from the placed one, and the line would be immediately formed by the *wheel up* of its divisions, without making the second countermarch. But when the column, after changing position, is to proceed in the new direction, and therefore to be countermarched in part; in that case *single* distance only is to be taken, and a previous caution is given accordingly.

From a line or from open column.—The divisions of a column may certainly arrange themselves anew before any named one, without countermarching, or without facing to it; but the difficulty of taking just distances, and covering of pivots, is thereby increased.

1. *If from line.*—The divisions would wheel up from the given one, and march from their *pivot* flanks.—When arrived on the line, they must take their distances and dressing from the *rear*, which increases the difficulty.

2. *If from column.*—They would move in the same manner from their pivot flanks, and take their ground before the named division.

This mode takes place in the formation of the close
column

column from line; but there the accuracy of distances is not difficult to attain.

MANOEUVRES XXVIII. XXIX. and XXX.

When the Squadron (or Regiment) in open Column of Divisions, changes its Situation to a distant Position in its Front, Rear, or to a Flank.

XXVIII. *If to its front.*—The column will march forward to some given point in that line, and then enter it according to one of the prescribed modes, at which its *head, central, or rear* division is to stand (as in M. XVI. XVII. or XVIII.)

XXIX. *If to its rear.*—Each division of the column will countermarch, and it will then proceed as having the position in its front (according to either M. XVI. XVII. or XVIII.)

XXX. *If to either flank.*—The divisions will join the new position by a flank march of threes; or if the position is a distant one, the head of the column will march towards it, and enter it as a position in front. (M. XV. XVI. XVII. or XVIII.)

MA-

MANOEUVRE XXXI.

When the open Column halts, and forms in Line to the leading Division, and facing either to the Front or Rear, by the Divisions successively passing behind the leading one, and each other.

HALT.

The column arrives in the direction of, or in any direction oblique or perpendicular behind, the line, and HALTS.—The leading division either remains on its ground, or wheels to its reverse flank, or wheels about on its reverse flank, according to the position to be taken.

MARCH.

Halt. Dress.

Right (or Left) Wheel

March.

Halt. Dress.

March.

Halt. Dress.

Right (or Left) Wheel

March.

Halt. Dress.

March.

Halt. Dress.

All the pivot leaders place themselves on the *reverse* flank of the divisions, and eyes are turned to them.

The head division standing fast, the others are put in *motion*, and each division successively *wheels* and passes close behind the head division, and again *wheels* when opposite its place, *marches* up, and *halts*, to the standing

standing part of the line, which is properly prolonged for the correction of their dressing.

The divisions thus come successively into line, making their wheels rapidly and sharp, so as not to impede the following of the column.

MANOEUVRES XXXII. XXXIII. and XXXIV.

When the Squadron (or Regiment) in open Column forms Line, facing to its Rear, on any Division.

XXXII. *If on its front division.*—That division wheels about on its reverse flank, and the formation is as in M. XXXI.

XXXIII. *If on a rear division.*—The divisions of the column, each countermarches, and the formation becomes the same as to the front, in M. XXXI.

XXXIV. *If on a central division.*—That division is wheeled to its reverse flank, and placed perpendicular to, and with its pivot on the new line.—The divisions that were in *front* of it countermarch.—The column will then change its position *before* and *behind* it (as in M. XIV.) and being thus prepared, will *wheel* up into line.

MA-

MANOEUVRES XXXV. and XXXVI.

*When the Squadron (or Regiment) in open Column,
is to form to its reverse Flank.*

XXXV. If the squadron is required suddenly to be formed on the ground on which it then stands, the reverse flanks of the divisions will quickly be covered, and wheel up into line on those flanks.—In this situation the divisions of the squadron will be inverted.

XXXVI. If no inversion is to take place, the formation will be a successive one; by the head division wheeling to the reverse hand, and halting, and the others marching on past it, and successively wheeling up, as in M. XXXI.

Remark.

When the head of a column advances and enters a new direction, by wheeling to its pivot hand, or by the flank march of its divisions, from its reverse hand, the formation made on that line by the wheeling up the divisions, will front towards the *rear* of that column.—When the head of the column advances and enters a new direction, by wheeling to its reverse hand, or by the flank march of its divisions from its pivot hand; the formation made on that line by wheeling up, will front the same way as the head of the column did when advancing to the line.

MA-

MANOEUVRES XXXVII. XXXVIII.
and XXXIX.

The open column forms in line on its front, rear, or central division by the echelon March (as in MAN. XIX.

MANOEUVRES XL. XLI. and XLII.

The open column closes to close column on any named division, and forms in line by the deployments of the close column.

Changes of Front, by the Countermarch of the Squadron or Regiment.

The countermarch changes the front and flanks of a body, and faces it to its rear, and is equivalent to a wheel of the half circle made on any of its parts or points.—It is *successive* (the body being halted) by each of its parts wheeling successively on its own ground as it comes to its turn.—Or *progressive* (the body being in motion) by each part wheeling when it comes up to the point at which the leading part wheeled and begun the countermarch. In the first case, the body must shift its ground, a space at least equal to its front. In the second, it will perform this operation of the countermarch on its original ground, exchanging flanks and fronts.

The countermarch from one flank to the other may be made either before or behind the body.—When from both flanks, it will be made both before and behind the body.—Markers will always be placed to give the precise ground on which the countermarch is to be made.—The column of countermarch must at no rate improperly lengthen out, and the wheels of its parts must be firm and rapid.

MANOEUVRES XLIII. XLIV. XLV. XLVI. XLVII. and XLVIII.

XLIII. *The squadron will countermarch from either flank by file, by ranks by twos, or by ranks by threes, in the manner prescribed for the divisions of a column in Man. XX.*

XLIV. *The squadron will countermarch from both flanks on its centre—by file, or ranks by twos.—From the right flank behind the rear rank; from the left flank before the front rank, till they arrive on each other's ground, which has been preserved by markers; the following files or twos front, and close in to their leaders; the standard turns about on its own ground, and the half squadrons dress to it.*

XLV. *The squadron will countermarch from one flank by subdivisions.—Subdivisions will wheel to the flank. The leading one will then wheel the half circle; and proceed along*

along the flank of the column, by the subdivisions of which it is followed, till the flanks have exchanged places. The whole being then in column, wheel to their pivots into line.

XLVI. *The squadron will countermarch on its centre by subdivisions.*—One half squadron wheels about by threes—each half squadron wheels inwards by subdivisions, and the standard faces about.—Subdivisions of the half squadrons move on, and wheel successively into their places beyond the standard.—The half squadron that wheeled its threes, wheels them again; and the squadron stands faced to the rear on its former ground.

XLVII. *The squadron will change front to the rear by the wheels of half squadrons.*—One half squadron advances a little more than its own length and halts.—Both half squadrons wheel about inwards.—The retired half squadron moves up and joins the other.—A half squadron or division, or any small body, may change front in the same manner by the wheels of its half parts.

XLVIII. *The squadron changes front by wheeling on its centre.*—Half the squadron goes about ranks by threes. The squadron wheels about on its standard. The half squadron fronts its threes, and the squadron is fronted by its former rear. Half squadrons or divisions may change front in the same manner.

The regiment may countermarch from one or both flanks by the wheels of divisions, subdivisions, ranks by threes or twos; and the squadron will be mindful of the operation of their interval distances, by whatever kind of column they move.—Or it may countermarch on its center, or any other point by subdivisions, as in M. XLVI.—Or change front each squadron by wheels of half squadrons, as in M. XLVII.—Or as in M. XLVIII.

In order to explain the manœuvres already selected, I have been obliged to make such copious extracts from Major General Dundas's excellent work, and have in consequence extended these instructions so much more than I at first intended, that I shall not swell them any further by laying down at length his directions for *diminishing or increasing the front of the column of march*; nor for the operations of the *close column*; because I think that, acting as volunteer cavalry generally will do, in single squadron, and most probably in the streets of a town; the necessity for either of these operations will occur but seldom, and the directions for their performance may be drawn into a very small compass.—The same may be said of the movements in *echelon*.

I. *Diminishing or increasing the Front of the Column of March.*

A squadron of volunteer cavalry will, in the streets of a town, be probably marching either ranks by threes, or filed from a flank, or from the centre.—If RANKS by THREES are marching to the right, and the narrowing of the street requires a diminution of front, the column will be HALTED, the threes WHEELED UP, and squadron FILED from the right (or leading) flank, and vice versa from the *left*.—If FILED from the right, and the extension of the (street or road) requires the front to be increased, the column of files will be HALTED, FORMED BY FACING TO THE LEFT, and closing to the right, and the squadron WHEELED RANKS BY THREES to the RIGHT, or vice versa to the left.—If in column of FILES FROM THE CENTRE, and the sudden extension of ground will allow space for the whole squadron, it will be HALTED and FORMED to the FRONT; but if the width though considerably increased, is yet insufficient for the whole squadron in front, it will then be FORMED to the LEFT or RIGHT, and WHEELED to the RIGHT or LEFT either FORWARD or BACKWARD, as the ground will permit, into column of HALF SQUADRONS, DIVISIONS or SUBDIVISIONS.—If in open ground, and the squadron marching in line is obliged to contract its front, if the opening through which it is to pass, is opposite, or beyond either flank, it will break to that flank into open column of half-squadrons, divisions, or subdivisions, according to the width of the passage, and the flank divi-

tion (if immediately opposite the mouth of the pass) remaining on its ground till the word MARCH, will then move straight forward, the other divisions successively entering the same line of march by squared and rapid wheels on their pivot flanks, as in MAN. VI.—If the opening should be opposite a *central* division, that division is named and stands fast, the rest form open column before and behind it, as in MAN. XIV. and the column is prepared to move forward by the countermarch of the divisions in front of the placed one, as in MAN. XX.—Or if the pass is too narrow to admit a subdivision of six files, the squadron will file from a flank or from the centre.—If marching in half squadrons or divisions the column may be diminished to half, or increased to double its present front, by inclining and doubling, or forming up in the same manner, as ordered for doubling and forming half and quarter ranks in the horse evolutions; only recollecting that now the rear rank accompany and cover their file leaders; and that it is always the *pivot* half division which is to double back and cover the *reverse* half, that the column may still be ready to form into line, by a simple wheel up to its pivot flank. The commanding officer will give a CAUTION whether the whole are to double, or form up *at once*, or whether they are to do it *successively*, to which caution the division leaders will attend, and act accordingly; and it will depend on what part of the front, so to be increased or diminished, is opposite to the pass, whether both, or which, of the half divisions must make a sharp incline to get into the ordered position.

II.—Forma-

II.—*Formation and Deployment of close Column.* The close column is a position so little likely to be used by a squadron of volunteer cavalry, that I hardly think it necessary to say much more on the subject, than that it is generally composed of half squadrons; that there is one horse's length between squadrons of the regiment,—half a horse's length between the divisions and ranks of squadrons.—That officers and their coverers are on the pivot flanks of their divisions.—Standards and supernumeraries are on the flanks not the pivot ones; and music, farriers, or certain supernumeraries, may also be in the rear of the whole;—no single persons can be between the ranks.—*That the close column is formed from line by an eighth wheel of the quarter circle, by the named divisions towards the flank, which is to lead; by the subsequent flank march of the divisions RANKS BY THREES to their place in column; and by the wheel up of threes when arrived at their station,—and this rule is invariable whether the column is to be formed before or behind a flank, or before and behind a central division.—But should the column be required to stand faced to the rear.*——1. If in front of a flank division.—That division is countermarched,—the eighth wheel is made outwards or from that division—and threes break to what was the standing flank, or their rear hand.——2. If in rear of a flank division.—That division is countermarched—the eighth wheel is inwards, or to that division—and threes break to the flank that wheeled up, or their front hand.—3. If in front and rear of a central division.—That division is countermarched—the eighth wheel is towards the

flank which is to be the head of the column, and the divisions break by threes to their conducting hand.

The *close* will be formed from either *quarter*, *half*, or *open* column, by the successive halts of divisions, and vice versa loosened by their successive march after a general halt. *The close column will deploy into line* by the flank march of its divisions, ranks by threes—by the *wheel up* of threes, as each division clears the flank of its preceding one; and by the forward march of such division to its place in line. In order to ensure the exact *wheel up* of each division at the precise moment of clearing the flank, it will be most advantageously HALTED and WHEELED UP by the squadron leader (in a single squadron, or by a detached field officer of a regiment) and every division must be brought up perfectly square to the front, and dressed exactly by its preceding one.

The above general principles of formation and movement in *close* column will, I trust, be sufficiently clear to all who are well grounded in those of the *open* one; and every officer who is master of the latter will, *mutatis mutandis*, be perfectly able to manœuvre the former with equal ease; for brevity's sake, therefore, I must refer those who wish for further information to the *Rules and Regulations* from Section LVI. to LXVI. inclusive.

III.—*Changes of Position by the Echellon* (or diagonal) *Movement*. The echellon or diagonal movement, though essentially

essentially useful in the operations of large bodies, may be so generally supplied in the manœuvres of a single squadron (more particularly of volunteer cavalry) either—by the incline of the whole to the ordered hand, in order to outflank an enemy;—by the forward *whole*, *half*, or *quarter* wheel of the quarter circle) in order to throw forward a flank—by the same operation to the rear (with the threes about) to throw a flank back—or by the central wheel of the squadron (with the threes of the ordered wing about) in order to advance the one, and retire the other flank—comprehending all the objects to be attained by the *oblique* movements in echellon—and as its *parallel* movements may be executed by the simple march of the squadron in line to the front, or (*threes about*) to the rear—I shall not attempt to overload the memories of gentlemen who will seldom (if ever) have occasion to make use of them, by going at any great length into instructions for the echellon movements; but shall content myself again with laying down the general principles, and referring to Major General Dundas, from Section LXVII. to LXXIII. for more minute directions.—The *oblique changes* are produced by the wheel less than the quarter circle of divisions from line; which places them in the echellon situation ready to move. The *direct* changes are produced by the perpendicular and successive march of divisions from line, to front or rear,

The march in the direct echellon produces new parallel positions to front or rear.—The march in echellon when formed by the wheels of the divisions from line, produces new oblique positions to front or rear, and at
the

the same time to the flank, according to the degree of wheel given to the echellon. The march in open column produces new prolonged positions to either flank.

The echellon of march necessary in making changes of situation, will be composed of half squadrons or divisions, (the latter of a single squadron) and formed from line by the wheel of each forward on its own flank, to the hand to which it is to move, and such wheel must be less than the quarter circle, for in such case the body would be in open column.—To form the echellon of oblique march, the degree of wheel made up from line ought strictly to be such as will place the divisions exactly perpendicular to their future points of march; but in practice generally, the *half, quarter, or eighth wheel* (of the quarter circle) each ordered according to circumstances, may suffice to attain the proposed end.

The echellon may be considered as a column of a particular kind as well as the open column; they are easily converted into each other, by a new degree of wheel of their component divisions.

When the Squadron in oblique Echellon has marched and halted, and is to form up obliquely to the Line it has quitted.

I. If the formation is made forward, and that the leading division wheels up the same portion of the quarter circle,

circle, that it before wheeled from line into echelon: then the others without altering their situation move on, and successively arrive in line, and dress up with it. In this manner will one or more squadrons make their change of position on a flank or central division of the line.

II. *If its wheel up exceeds that portion, the others wheel up one half of that excess, move on, and successively dress with it.*

III. *If its wheel up is less than that portion, the others wheel back one half of what they originally wheeled forward, after deducting one half of what the leading division has now wheeled forward; they then move on, and dress up with it.*

IV. *If the formation is to be in the prolongation of the front division as it stands; the others wheel back one half of what they originally wheeled forward, then move on, and dress up with it.*

V. *If the leading division has to wheel back into the new position, the others wheel back (in addition to the one half of what they originally wheeled forward) half of what the leading division has now wheeled, move on and dress up with it.*

All these specified wheelings are in order to make the divisions stand precisely perpendicular to the lines on which they must march to their points of formation; which

which lines change in consequence of the position given by the leading division.

When the movement is to be to the rear instead of the front—the squadron will wheel about by threes; wheel forward into echelon, in the above manner; and proceed as if the line was to its proper front. The commanding officer is with the leading echelon in march, and on coming into line; and the quarter-master, (or adjutant of a regiment) always marks the prolonged point towards the other flank, on which the divisions are successively corrected as they halt in the line.

The squareness of each division, and the perfect equality of pace during the movement, are what alone can produce the decided exactness which such operations indispensibly require in their execution, and without which they must necessarily fail.

When the change of position is to be a central one, the wing to be retired, whether of a single squadron or regiment, will go about by threes, the squadron will then complete its change by a single wheel on the standard; but a regiment will make the *ordered degree* of wheel by divisions *inwards* and *forwards* towards the named central division, and the whole will march in echelon as in the simple operation of throwing a flank forward, fronting and dressing in line as required.

When

When the Line retires.

A line (whether of one or more squadrons) previously to its retiring should be full as correctly dressed, as when it is to advance, or its movements will be disordered in proportion to its extent.

THE SQUADRON (OR
LINE) WILL RETIRE.

On this CAUTION—the same preparation will be made as for advancing; each squadron having an officer (not the commander, but one of the ferrefiles; or in want of such the quarter master) placed behind its centre, ready to lead it to the rear.

THREES ABOUT.
MARCH. HALT.
DRESS.

RANKSBY THREES, RIGHT ABOUT.—MARCH, on which the ranks and ferrefiles wheel about, and the squadrons remain ready for the general word to MARCH; the officer who is to lead the squadron (the *directing* one of a regiment or line) ascertaining his points of march.

MARCH.

MARCH.

MARCH.—The line retires in the same manner that it advances ; and the commanding officers of squadrons, being in the rear of their respective standards, can by their eye and directions, give occasional aid.

HALT.

HALT—is only a momentary pause.

THREES ABOUT.
MARCH.

RANKS BY THREES go to the RIGHT ABOUT, and FRONT.

HALT. DRESS.

By the standards.

If any further dressing is necessary, it is ordered by the commander, as already directed.—The line is never to remain halted an instant after facing to the rear, but is immediately to march on.—And when it halts, it is immediately to front, and then to dress.

Attack of Cavalry in Front and Flank.

The covering a flank in a line of cavalry, or having a body behind a flank, ready to turn that of an enemy, is of the greatest consequence, and their previous situation

tion should be concealed as much as possible.—Therefore, whenever squadrons are strong, and exceed forty-eight files, six or eight files, (or all above forty-eight, and not in themselves exceeding twelve) may be placed in reserve, fifty paces behind their respective squadrons; to whose movements they are attached, and are to correspond.—Their ordered situation may be behind *either* (or if amounting to twelve files, in two divisions of six behind *each*) flank, or in the rear of the centre; or if more than one squadron is in the field, they may be opposite the intervals; and will be considered in the calculation of the manœuvres of the line.—And when a column of march is formed, they may make part of it, place themselves in the interval, and follow the rear of their respective squadrons.

They should be selected from amongst the best riders, and most skilful swordsmen of the squadron, and may be advantageously employed to flank, to skirmish, to pursue, or to form advanced or rear guards.—They will be commanded by an appointed officer, move out at the instant of command, and proceed to perform those duties in which every volunteer should be individually instructed and practised, and be master of his fire arms and sword, when single, as well as in rank.

If the squadron is not strong enough to spare such a corps de reserve, the skirmishers may be taken by a complete subdivision from one flank, or rank by three from either or both flanks; in which posts the most skilful swordsmen will be previously placed for that purpose;

pose; but the reserve, when practicable, will always be preferred, because it occasions no break in the main body, and must be sooner ready for detached duties than any part of it.

The following proportions will probably be found sufficiently accurate.—In a single troop skirmish with the right flank *three* (or *four*) in advancing, and the left ditto in retreating; unless the troop is strong enough (exceeding 24 files) to spare both at once; or unless there is an odd subdivision, which should be on the right, and used for both.—In a squadron of from 36 to 38 files, detach both flank *threes* (or *fours*).—Above 38, and not amounting to 48, form a reserve of all above 36, which leaves the main body four even *divisions* of three *threes*, or nine files each; and when the whole squadron is exactly 48, then either form a reserve of 10 or 12 files, or skirmish with one or both flank subdivisions, as most consonant to the general plan of the day. When more than 48, then form such a reserve as will leave the squadron in the best order for even tellings, remembering, that under 48 files the telling off of subdivisions may be omitted.

I must observe here, that as the volunteer corps are allowed twelve carbines per troop, they should (if used at all) be given to the reserve, who in any mobs or riots, where it is necessary to dismount, in order to apprehend the ringleaders, will be the men ordered for that service, in which (if ever) the carbines will be found useful—but as the reserve will not always be formed of
the

the same gentlemen, I should advise their remaining in charge of the quarter master, who will take care to see them kept in high order, and carried to the field, to be there (or at his quarters) delivered to those who use them for the day.

Whenever part of a body outflanks an enemy, on arriving near him, such part will rapidly circle inwards, so as to attack him in flank and rear; and the smallest body gaining a flank, and being well supported, is sufficient to endanger a whole line.

In a charge of either infantry or cavalry, though a momentary disorder may take place, yet the instant the enemy gives way, the line must be again formed, and the pursuit continued either by the reserve, or skirmishers detached for that purpose; these follow the enemy with the utmost vigour; and as soon as the line is in order, it advances again and completes the defeat.

When cavalry attack infantry, they are too apt to break, but it ought always to be remembered, that when the enemy is dispersed, they (unless ordered to the contrary) give up the pursuit, as before observed, to the detached divisions, whom they are to support as soon as the line regains its order.

Q

When

When *cavalry* attack *cavalry*, the squadrons must be firm and compact; but when they attack *infantry*, the files may be opened, and the men bend down on their horses necks.

When cavalry attack infantry, they should in general do it in column, and the divisions of the column should have at least three times as much distance between them as the extent of their front.—The leading division, after breaking the enemy's line, should move forward and form; the two succeeding ones should each wheel outwards by half divisions, and charge along the line; whatever other divisions follow will support, and act according to circumstances.

If two or more squadrons (or strong troops acting as distinct squadrons) of volunteer cavalry, are to attack a line (or mob of foot people) of considerable extent, and the ground will admit of the operation, they will form separate squadron columns of divisions, and charge so as to make impression on different points at the same time.—And this may be done with great effect in the streets of a town, by filing from the centres of troops, and by different routes, taking them in front and rear at the same moment.

Marches.

All marches will be made on the greatest front which the breadth of the ground will allow; but if the road is expected to narrow in a short distance, it will be best to begin with the same front as is meant to be continued, to avoid the unnecessary trouble of diminishing it on the march.—And in marching on the road from one town or place to another, they will generally march by files from the right; the front rank keeping on the left, and the rear on the right side of the road, leaving the middle of the way open for carriages to pass.

In all marches by half squadrons or divisions, officers will lead their divisions, observing their just distances; but they may also be occasionally directed to move on the flanks.—In all marches of the column by *subdivisions*, ranks by threes, by twos, or by files, officers will be on the flanks of their respective divisions, attentive to the steadiness of the march, that the column is not lengthened out, nor any improper stops made.—Officers will always attend to the division before them as well as their own. *On a march* there are so many occasional and temporary halts, that individuals should at no other time think of stopping or dismounting.—At a general halt, every necessary examination and adjustment of saddles, girths, &c. should be made; and these halts should take place every five or six miles.

I have now, my lord, brought my task to a conclusion, by extracting from Major-General Dundas's truly valuable work, every thing which struck me as possibly applicable to the service of the volunteer cavalry; and when I look back, and see the length to which these letters have unavoidably been extended, I am almost afraid of presenting them to the inspection of my brother officers; and yet I can most seriously, and with the utmost truth, assure them, that without being perfect master of every *principle* here laid down, no officer should venture to take on himself the command of a troop; or at least without a determined resolution to attend constantly in the field, until he has perfectly acquired and fixed them in his memory—and indeed without the regular attendance of all the officers, and their apparent knowledge of their duty, how can it be expected that the private gentlemen should either quit their professional avocations to come to the place appointed, or pay any sort of attention to what is going forward when there, if they do not meet with officers who are both able and willing to instruct them. So far from the command of a volunteer troop being a trivial and unimportant office, to be taken up as an amusement for a vacant hour, and to be neglected for every casual engagement, I look on it as still more necessary for a volunteer officer to be perfectly acquainted with his duty than an officer of regulars.—In the regiments of the line collected in camp, in garrison, or in quarters, there is a regular routine of duty laid down in standing orders, with which every man is acquainted, from the colonel to the private soldier; and in which from constant habit, and incessant practice, he becomes

becomes gradually, and as it were mechanically instructed*.—But with us, my lord, the case is very materially different, scattered over an extensive county, meeting but seldom in the field of exercise, (probably not oftener than once a fortnight on the average of the year) and on all other days totally discarding every military idea, it becomes more absolutely necessary for us to attend with regularity, and to bend and concentrate all our powers whilst there to the perfect acquisition of our business.—I really feel ashamed of presuming to press upon the recollection of our brother officers what I am certain they must be as perfectly convinced of as myself, whenever they give themselves the trouble to think seriously on the subject.—And in this conviction I shall only add, that it is that attention to duty, and soldier-like appearance in the field, which can alone induce our fellow subjects to rely on us for protection; and to say of our establishment, as they already do of that constitution for

* The difficulty of finding in time of war a sufficient number of gentlemen in any county qualified from their military knowledge to command volunteer troops, will always be an unanswerable reason without needing any other, for forming the yeomanry into regiments in preference to independent troops; though I have heard many persons say that they thought it absurd to have field officers, being too much like the regulars; with other remarks equally puerile and ill founded. On the contrary, I think, that, as in the larger counties the Colonel and Lieutenant-Colonel of six troops, and in smaller ones, the Lieutenant-Colonel, commandant of four, will probably be members of one or the other house of parliament, and of course obliged to be absent from the regiment a considerable part of the year, there should invariably be a supernumerary or second Lieutenant-Colonel, who, without being attached to any particular troop, should superintend the discipline of the whole, and should of course have been a regular soldier.

whose

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whose support and defence we are associated——ESTO
PERPETUA.

I have the honour to remain,

With the highest respect,

And esteem,

Your Lordship's,

Very faithful

And most obedient servant,

Elmhurst, Jan. 30, 1797.

F. P. ELIOT.

21 0059

E R R A T A.

Page 40, line 23, *for* "On the motion" *read* " 3. On the motion"

44,—— 1, *for* "par" *read* "part"

56,—— 11, *for* "Subdivisions about" *read* "Threes about" *and throughout the whole directions for charging, &c. for* "Quarter-rank" *read* "Division"

65,—— 19, *for* "country" *read* "county"

92,—— 10, *for* "squadron" *read* "squadrons"

117,—— 21, *for* "skirmishers column" *read* "skirmishers and column"

126,—— 18, *for* "feldom" *read* "still feldomer"

212,—— 3, *for* "squadron" *read* "squadrons"

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References to the Plates:

	Field Officer—
	Captain—
	Field Officer's Lieutenant—
	Captain's do—
	Field Off: ^r Cornet—
	Captain's do—
	Field Off: ^r 2 ^d Master—
	Captain's do—
	Field Off: ^r Sergeants—
	Captain's do—
	Field Off: ^r Corporals—
	Captain's do—
	Field Off: ^r Trumpeter—
	Captain's do—
	Field Off: ^r Troop—
	Captain's do—



A.B. The Men of the rear Rank are distinguished by a dot on the Croupe. The serrefiles (or supernumeraries of the third Rank) by a similar dot behind the Croupe.

Fig: 1st

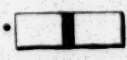
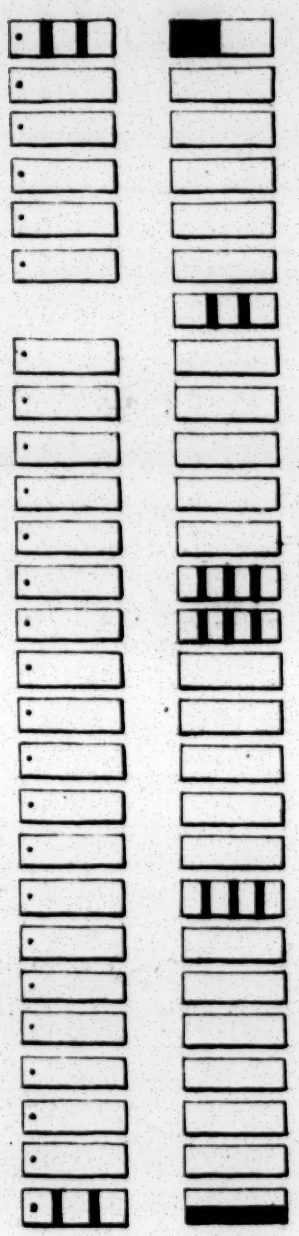


Fig: 2nd

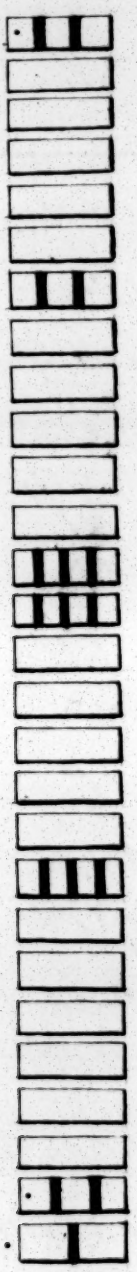
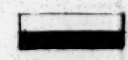


Fig 3rd

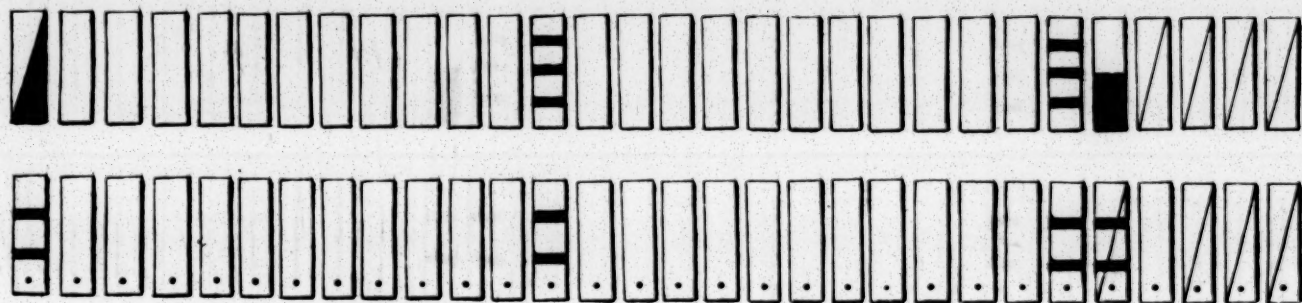
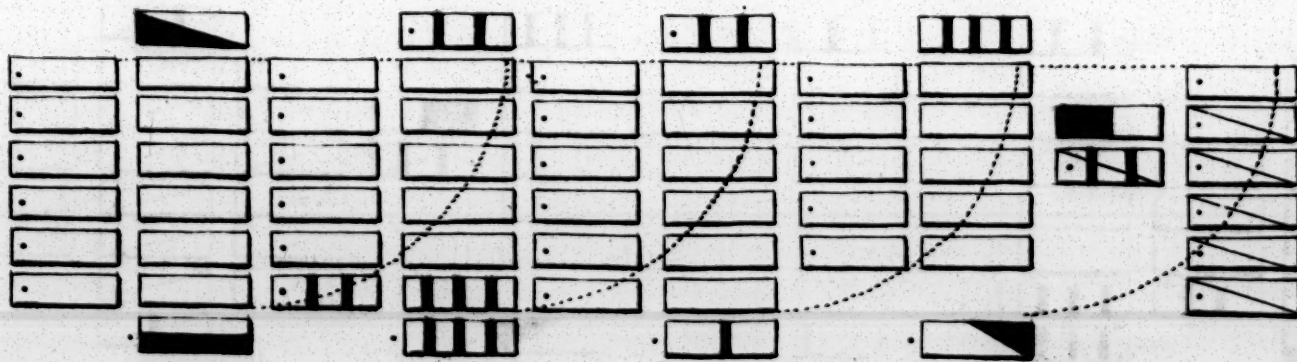


Fig 4th



Pl-2nd

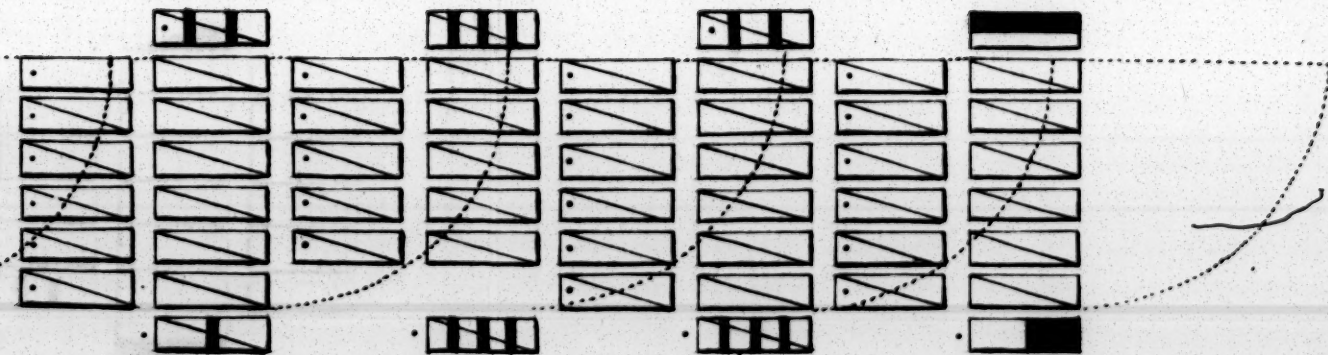
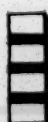
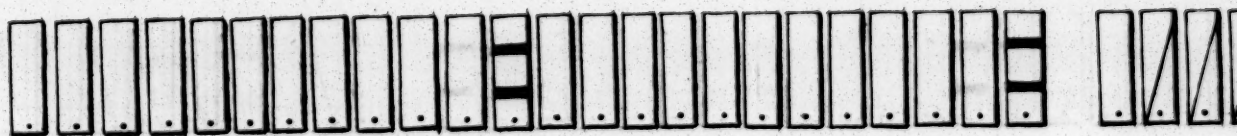


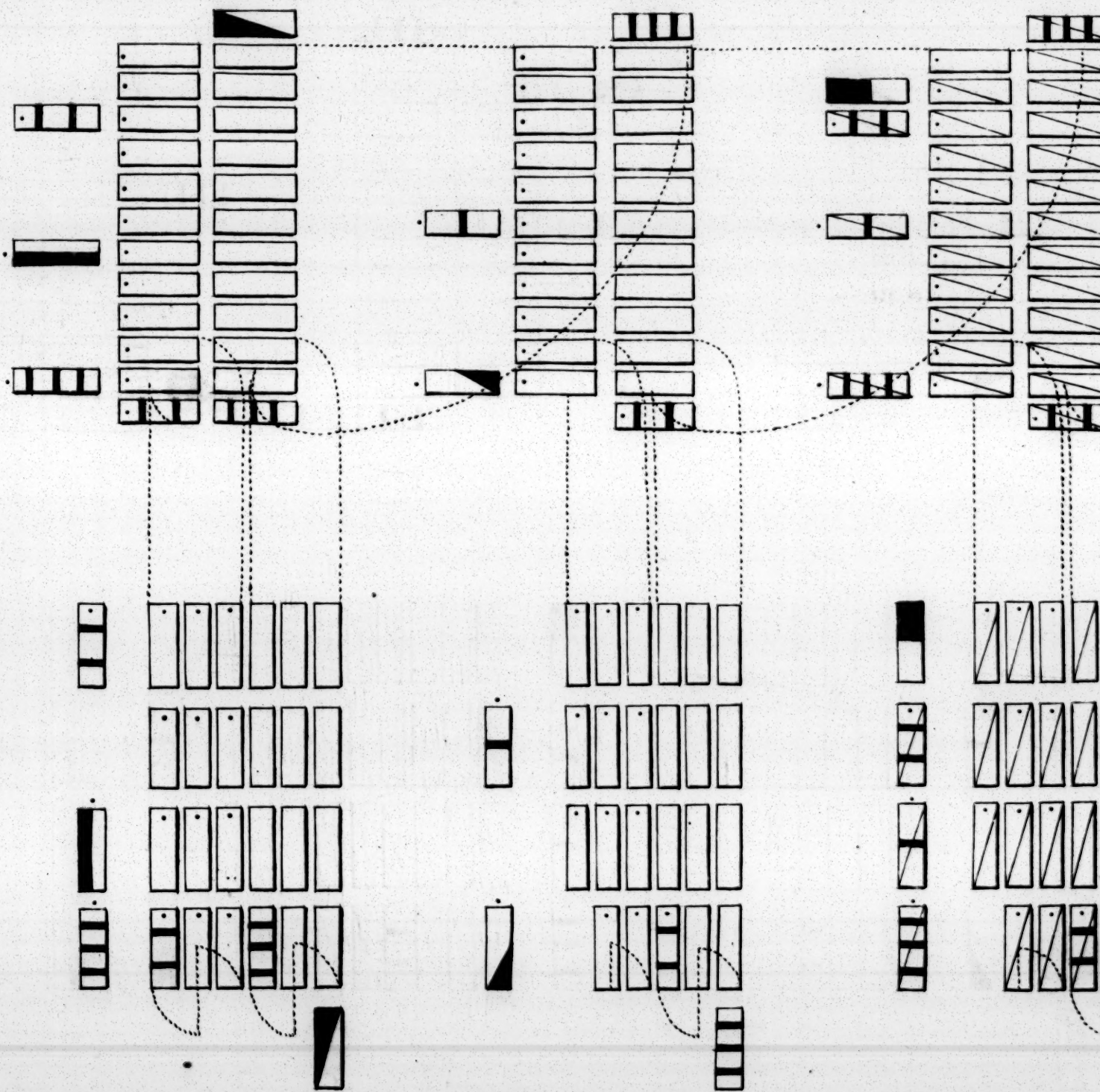
Fig 5th =



Pl: 3rd



Fig. 6th



Pl: Ath

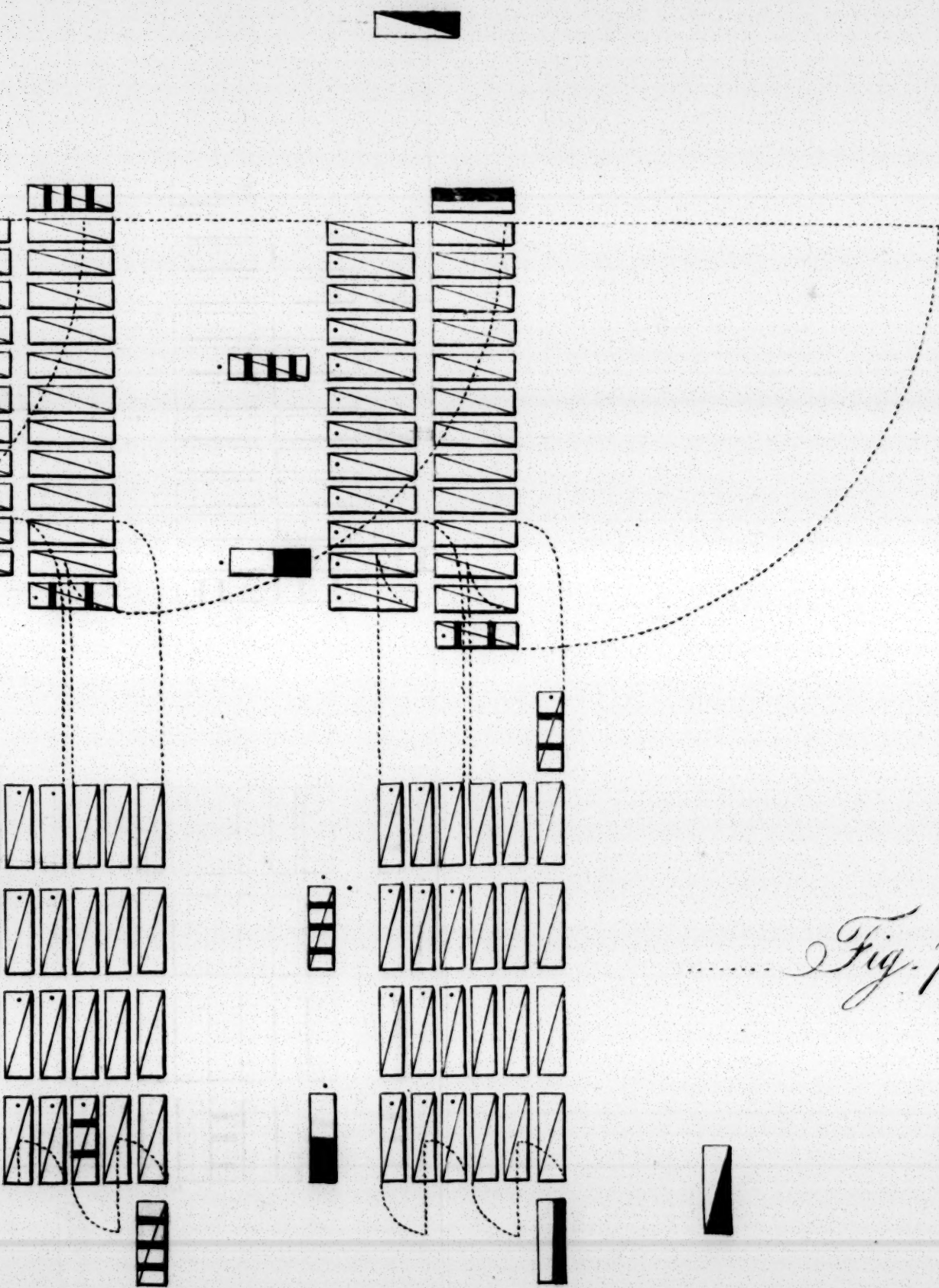
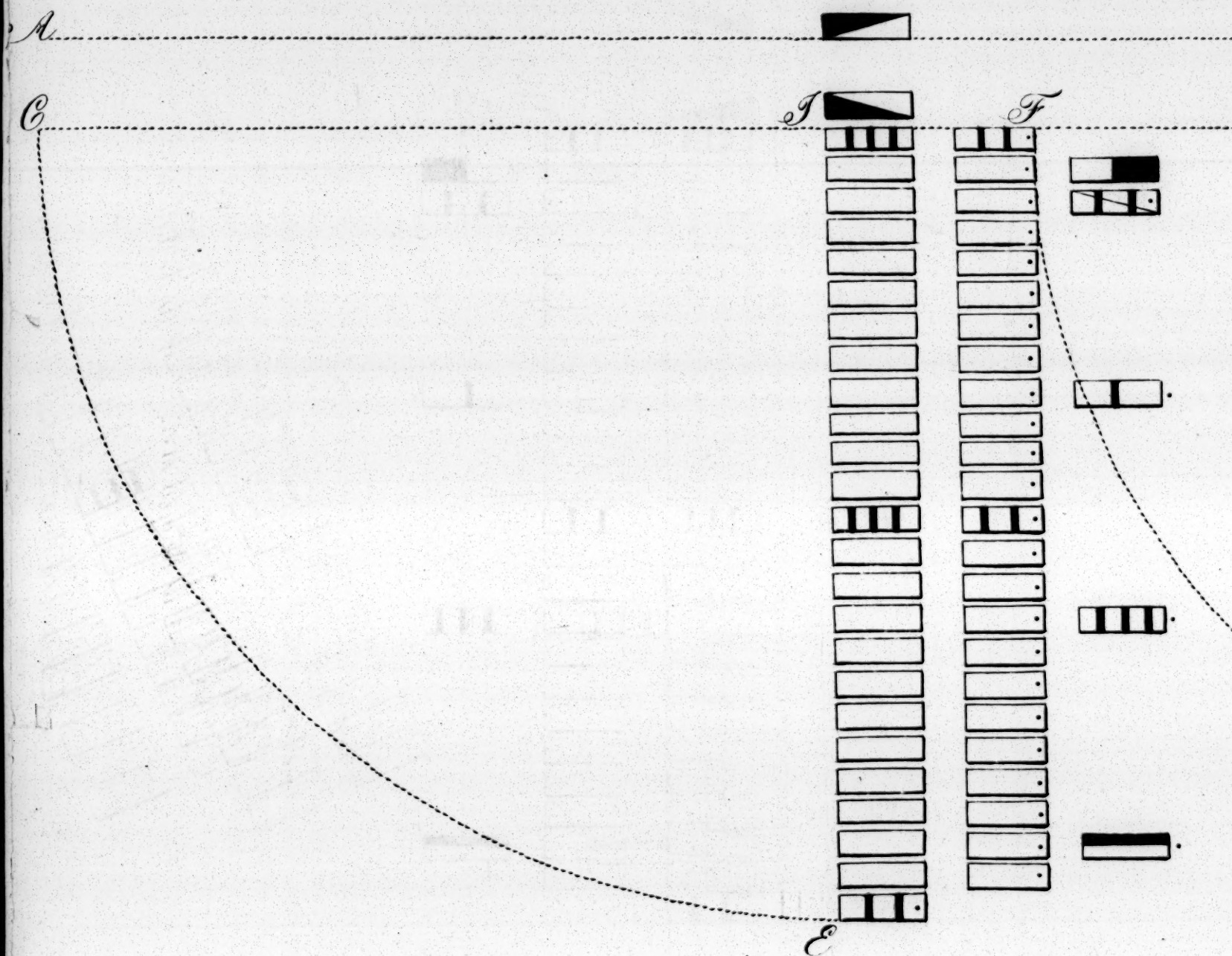


Fig. 7th

Fig. 8th



Pl: 5th

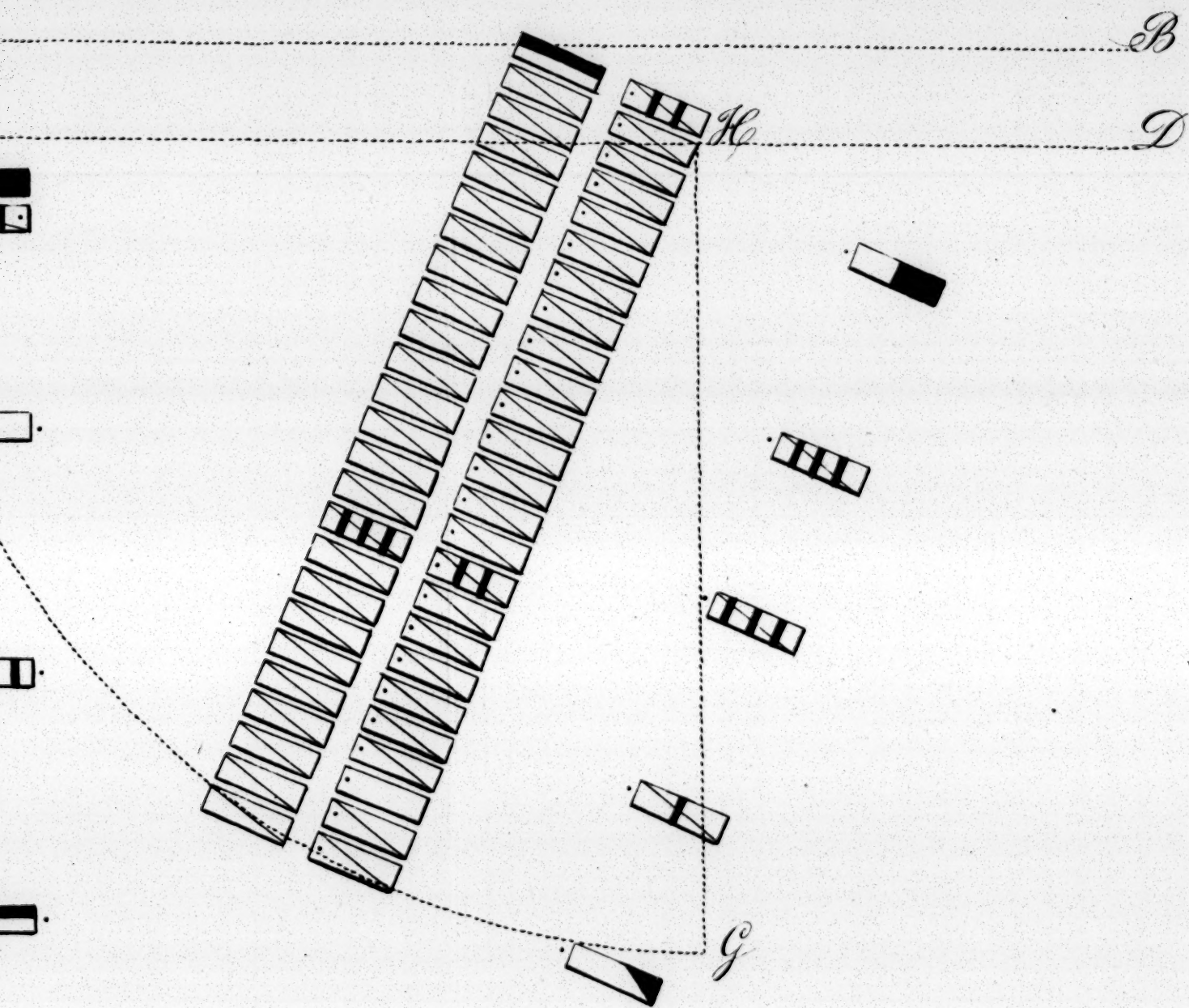


Fig 9th

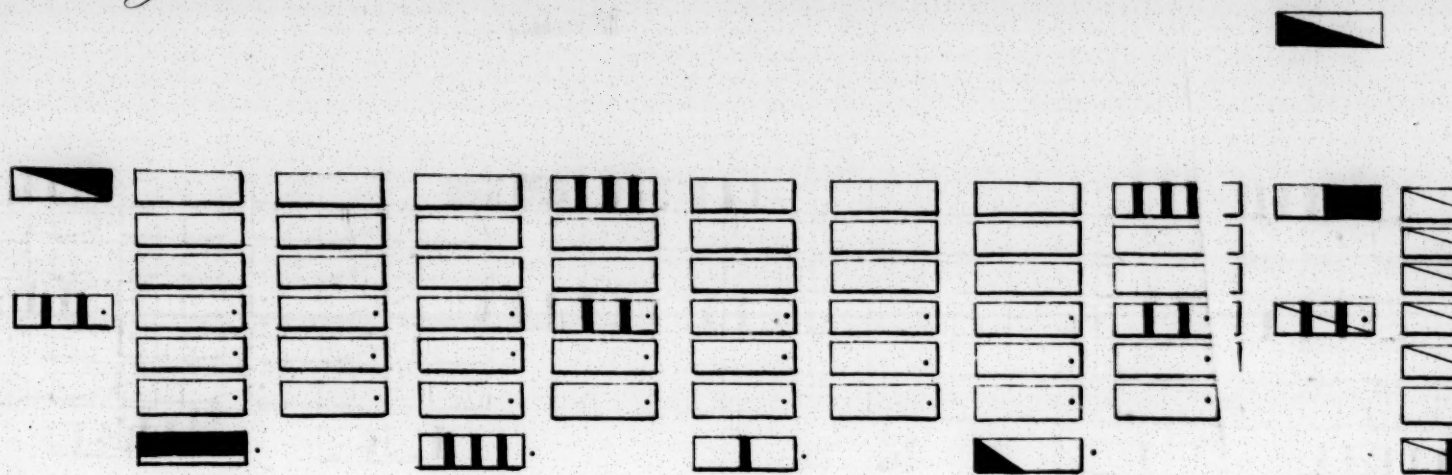
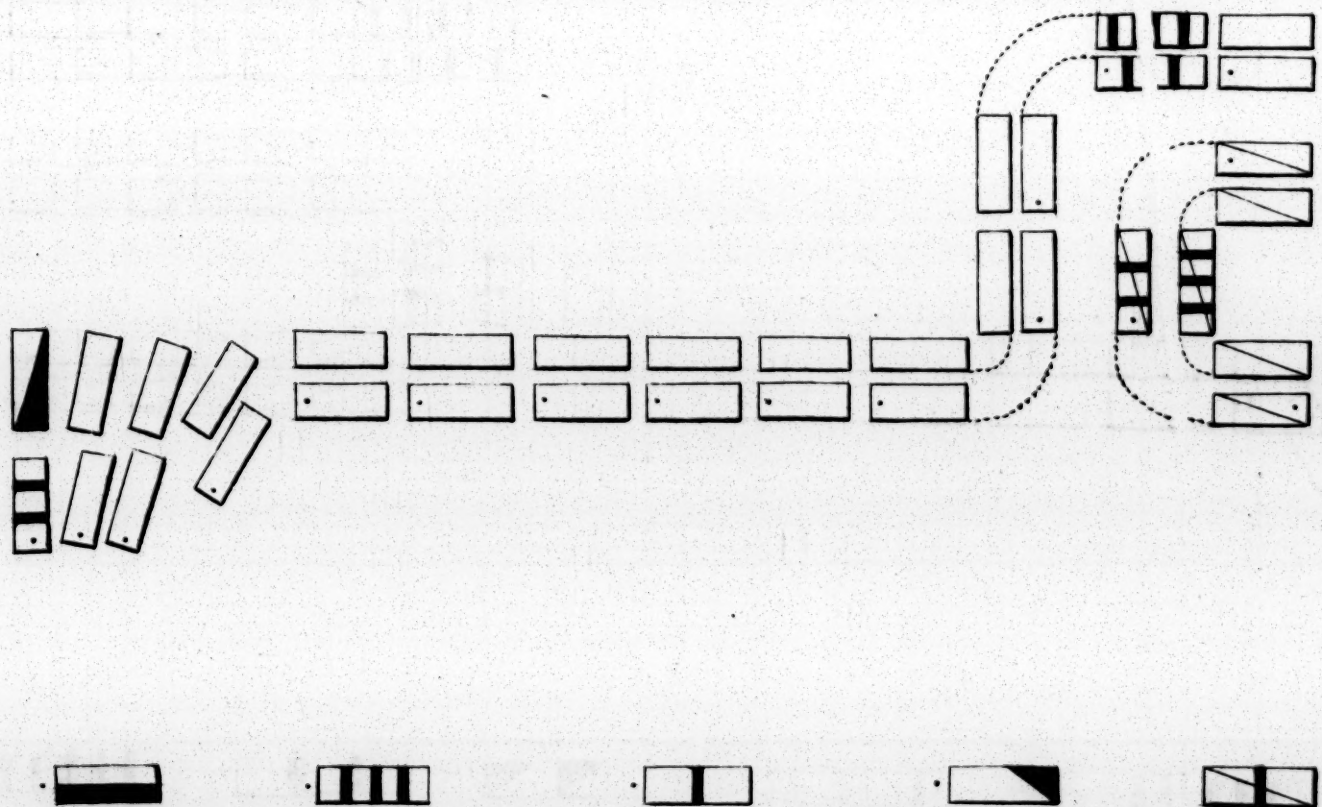


Fig. 10th



Pl: 6th

